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Kent on Sunday

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A mixed bag for retailers as shoppers flock to cash in at the sales

By Marijke Cox
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TENS of thousands of bargain-hunters flocked to the county's shopping centres and high streets for the Boxing Day sales – with one eager family arriving at 1am to start queuing ahead of the expected rush.

And perhaps they were right to, with 3,000 eager shoppers arriving before 7am to snap up bargains at Bluewater which saw its record numbers of shoppers in 2011 beaten this year, with 130,000 visitors through its doors.

But while some appeared to put austerity measures on hold, others remained cautious.

One major shopping complex reported a significant dip in visitor numbers compared to last year – suggesting while the bigger venues may cash in, many others could still be left counting the cost.

This was blamed on Britain's sale culture where prices are slashed throughout the year, unlike in the past when sales were reserved for just January and June – traditionally peak trading times for retailers.

Tom Price, general manager of Westwood Cross in Broadstairs – which saw 17,000 visitors, a 12 per cent drop in footfall compared to last Boxing Day – said this sales culture was now watering down the January rush.

He said: "People are so used to sales throughout the year and sales being on all the time, they don't feel the need to rush out on Boxing Day – it dilutes it.

"Shops were holding sales before Christmas this year. There's always a lot of hype about Boxing Day sales. There's still the feeding frenzy at the bigger stores."

High street chain Next saw people queuing from 3.30am for a 6am opening at the Broadstairs shopping centre

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BARGAIN HUNT: Shoppers flocked but while Bluewater boomed, others struggled

POLITICS

Councils count cost of cuts

WE can expect another round of cuts to services after it was confirmed central government cash hand-outs to local councils would once again be heavily cut.

But it wasn't all bad news. Some local authorities will get slightly more money. Is yours among them? **PAGE 5**

RESCUE

Skydiver has heart attack

A DRAMATIC drama played out in the skies above the county recently when a skydiver had a heart attack just moments before he was due to plunge 12,000ft out of an airplane.

Fortunately, his life was saved due to the swift action of staff and the use of a defibrillator. **PAGE 10**

2012

We look back over the year

AS the country prepares to welcome 2013, we cast our mind back over the last 12 months in what has been another eventful year.

In a special three-page review of the year, we look back at some of the highs and lows of 2012 and the images which went with it. **PAGE 17**



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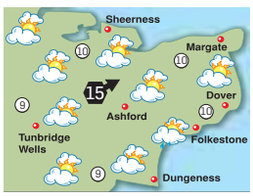
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Weather



TODAY: A mixture of sun and showers. Moderate south-westerly winds. Max temp 8-11C (46-52F). **TONIGHT:** Rain. Windy. Min temp 6-9C (43-48F).

TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)

Dover	–	–	12.03	6.3
Margate	00.45	4.6	13.06	4.6
St Mary's	05.39	5.5	17.57	5.3

WEEK AHEAD

Monday	Max 12C	Min 2C
Tuesday	Max 8C	Min 3C
Wednesday	Max 10C	Min 6C
Thursday	Max 12C	Min 6C
Friday	Max 11C	Min 6C
Saturday	Max 10C	Min 6C

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SHOPPING

Queuing begins at 1am in Boxing Day sales frenzy

Continued from front page

and at Bluewater some 2,000 shoppers were chomping at the bit to get to its sales rails.

Bluewater bosses, who reported around 900,000 visitors in the week before Christmas, were celebrating 130,000 visitors on Boxing Day.

General manager Robert Goodman said the early morning rush this year was one of the busiest starts ever at Bluewater for Boxing Day sales.

"It was as busy as ever at Bluewater, with guests queuing from 1am to secure a bargain the minute the first store opened at 6am," he said.

"The post-Christmas period is our busiest of all, with around 900,000 visitors expected to visit Bluewater in the days between Boxing Day and New Year's Eve."

Christmas Eve footfall was also up 20 per cent on last year at the centre as shoppers rushed around in a last minute panic to snap up presents for family and friends.

Bosses at Hempstead Valley shopping centre near Gillingham were unable to provide Boxing Day visitor numbers, but said they expected good trading over the Christmas period.

Speaking to KoS ahead of the pre-Christmas weekend rush, centre manager Mark Rumfitt said the Christmas trading period sales and footfall were both running behind last year, but he was hopeful the last-minute rush would push figures up.

"Sales are expected to be around one per cent up on last year over the Christmas period but with inflation running at 2.7 per cent the volume of sales is expected to be down," he said. "It has been a difficult year for retail as customers have kept a tight control on expenditure, there is still a lack of confidence and optimism in the economy and customers are focused on getting the best value they can."

Business recovery firm Begbies Traynor reported this week that many UK retailers were in a "critical" financial condition, despite Christmas being their peak trading time.

It warned there could be a rising number of retail insolvencies in 2013, including both independent shops and national and regional chains.

HEALTH

Charity takes action to bridge age gap as cancer treatment denied to elderly

By Marijke Cox
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OLDER cancer patients in Kent are being urged to ask vital questions about their care following a damning survey which found ageism was stopping some from getting vital NHS treatment.

Macmillan Cancer Support released the shocking findings earlier this month, showing 45 per cent of heath professionals had dealt with a cancer patient who had been refused treatment on the grounds they were too old.

Around 13,645 over-75s in Kent are diagnosed with cancer every five years.

The recent findings have prompted the charity to publish a booklet, Cancer and Older People, listing essential questions elderly people should ask when being seen by health professionals.

They include questions about treatment options and the pros and cons, asking how to get practical and financial help and what to do if they are not happy with the care they are receiving.

General manager for Macmillan Cancer Support, Carol Fenton, said age was too common a factor in cancer treatment recommendations.

"Two people of the same age may have very different needs and will cope with cancer treatments differently," she said. "One 78-year-old may be bedbound, while another may take part in half marathons. As such, they should be treated as individuals."



HELP AND ADVICE: Macmillan has produced an advice booklet to help older cancer patients get the treatment they deserve

The charity's 75-page advice booklet sets out what older cancer patients should expect and what their rights are, from diagnosis through to treatment by GPs, hospitals and other services.

The booklet states 'your age should not stop you from being offered many of the available treatments for cancer'.

Macmillan's poll also found that as well as some older cancer patients being refused treatment, they were also spoken to in a condescending way.

The survey's findings, the charity said, echoed those of a recent report published by the Royal College of Surgeons and Department of Health, which suggested that some health professionals make age-based assumptions about people's ability to tolerate treatment.

Around 50 per cent of all cancers diagnosed in the UK every year are in the over 70s.

Macmillan said the UK has some of the worst cancer survival rates in Europe for older people and that they are also less likely to receive treatment than their younger counterparts.

Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt said it was "shocking and wrong to deny people treatment because of their age".

"This is why we have made it illegal," he said. "However, we agree more needs to be done to improve treatment for cancer patients over 70 – which is why we worked with Macmillan on this report to understand how to address this.

"Our ambition is to be the best in Europe for cancer care and we are committed to improving survival rates. We are investing more than £750 million over four years to improve cancer services and outcomes."

Over a five-year period, around 13,645 over-75s were diagnosed with cancer: in Dartford 685; Medway 1,690; Tonbridge and Malling 865; Maidstone 1,190; Swale 930; Canterbury 1,465; Dover 1,055; Gravesham 695; Thanet 1,500; Shepway 1,015; Tunbridge Wells 830; Sevenoaks 920; and Ashford 805.

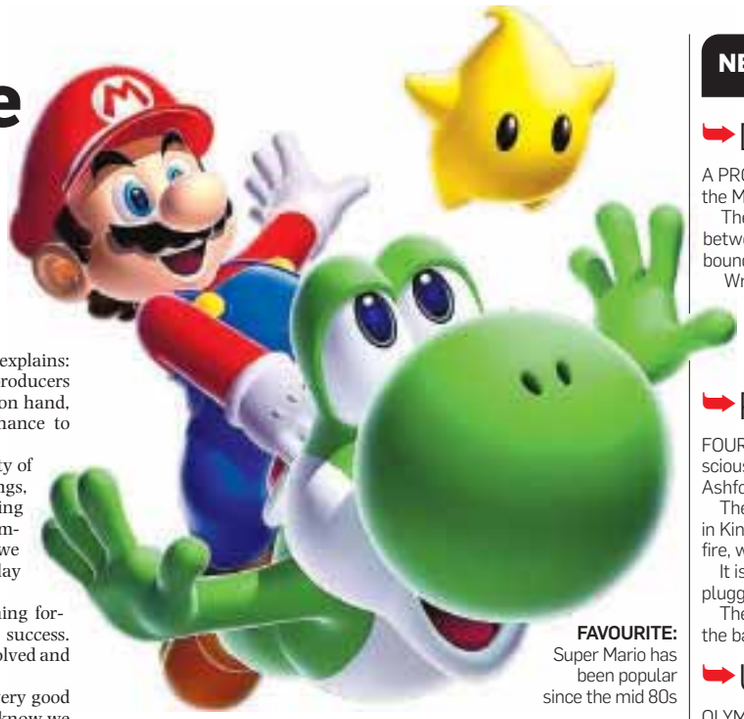
Copies of Cancer and Older People can be obtained by calling Macmillan on 0808 8080000 or from www.be.macmillan.org.uk to find out more.



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ENTERTAINMENT

Gamers waggle their joysticks for retro show



FAVOURITE: Super Mario has been popular since the mid 80s

By Chris Murphy
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CHRISTMAS may have ushered in a new generation of video games – including Nintendo's latest Wii U console – but next year will see a festival dedicated to the retro gamer.

From the era of Space Invaders and Pac-Man, through to Mario and Sonic the Hedgehog, all the old favourites will be at the Geek Festival, taking place at venues in Margate in February.

Geek, standing for Gaming Expo East Kent, proved a big hit earlier this year, showcasing the evolving state of an industry which has grown into a multi-billion pound business.

As well as a core exhibition celebrating 40 years of video gaming, there will be more than 1,000 games on show and more than 100 consoles going back through the years.

Organiser Kate Kneale explains: "We will have games producers and those in the industry on hand, so this is an excellent chance to launch a new career.

"We will also have plenty of opportunities to make things, be it papercraft or creating something using programming. And then of course we want people to be able to play with the results.

"We feel this is a winning formula for making Geek a success. We want people to get involved and take part.

"The pilot festival was very good and well received, but we know we can do better next year.

"There is plenty of time for companies that want to take part to get in touch, but we want to make this an event where the attendees are the important ones.

"That's why we are making as much as we can to be hands on.

"There will be around 1,000 games to play on consoles, cabinets and cards – some of them familiar and some particularly obscure.

"If this once again goes as well as we expect, we will be well on the way to making this an annual event to be proud of."

■ The organisers are also after an army of volunteers to make it another success. Contact the event organisers at Marine Studios on 01843 282 219 or drop an email to hq@geek2013.co.uk to find out how you can get involved.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Death smash on M20

A PROBE has been launched after a crash on the M20 on Boxing Day left one man dead.

The incident occurred just before 8pm between junctions two and one on the London-bound carriageway between Sevenoaks and Wrotham.

Police say only one car was involved - a silver Vauxhall Vectra - driven by a man in his 50s. He died at the scene. Officers are issuing an appeal for witnesses.

Pets killed in blaze

FOUR cats were killed and a dog left unconscious after a fire ripped through a house in Ashford on Christmas Day.

The owners of the two-storey terraced home in Kingsnorth Road were out at the time of the fire, which was sparked at 11.41am.

It is thought to have been caused by a plugged-in mobile phone charger.

The light-brown Labrador dog was found near the back door, unconscious and not breathing.

Usain Bolt love split

OLYMPIC legend Usain Bolt has split with his Dartford girlfriend.

The multi gold-winning sprinter met Megan Edwards, 22, during the summer when he jetted into the UK for the Games in London.

But the strain of a long-distance relationship took its toll and they went their separate ways. Quoted in the Mirror, Miss Edwards said: "In the end I had to let my head rule my heart."

RELIGION

Archbishop hits back over claims of UK's lack of faith

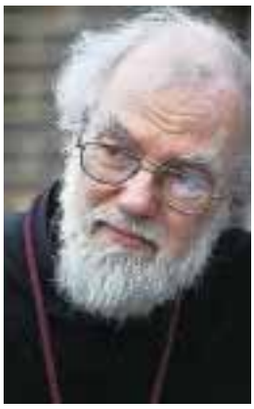
DR ROWAN Williams delivered his final Christmas sermon at Canterbury Cathedral this week - and called on the nation to 'join the human race'.

The exiting Archbishop of Canterbury delivered his traditional Christmas Day address by defending his faith in the light of the recent findings of the 2011 census, but did acknowledge the Church has seen its credibility damanged by the recent vote rejecting women bishops.

Dr Williams said: "Fifty-nine per cent of British people describe themselves as Christians, so the census informed us a couple of weeks ago; 12 per cent down from ten years ago.

"There was, of course, great delight from a couple of secularist organisations. But if I were a member of the British Humanist Association, I might want to pause before I became too excited.

"It remains true that three quarters of the public still want to identify themselves as having a religious faith of some kind. And what the census doesn't and probably can't measure is exactly how those who don't identify as religious think about religion. Do they never give it a thought? Do they wish they could believe something? Do they see it as a problem or as a resource in society?



FAITH: Dr Rowan Williams

"In the deeply painful aftermath of the Synod's vote last month, what was startling was how many people who certainly wouldn't have said yes to the census question turned out to have a sort of investment in the Church, a desire to see the Church looking credible and a real sense of loss when — as they saw it — the Church failed to sort its business out.

"There are a lot more questions to ask before we could possibly assume that the census figures told us that faith was losing its hold on society.

"But — and here is the challenging thing — what if those figures had been worse? What if they get worse in the next few years? Should we conclude that faith in general and Christian faith in particular had had its day and that we should give up on it?

"The answer has to be a resounding 'no'. We might feel that we had made a poor job of communicating it, we might regret the enormous loss to public life and public service involved in the weakening of faith. But we simply could not conclude that faith had suddenly become impossible or incredible."

Dr Williams will be replaced as Archbishop by Dr Justin Welby, the Bishop of Durham.



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POLITICS

Councils need to do 'more for less' as budget cuts threaten services

By Marijke Cox
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CASH-STRAPPED councils are "bearing the brunt" of public spending cuts, putting crucial services at risk.

That's the grim warning from local authority chiefs, who say councils are vital to Britain's economic recovery. It follows the announcement of the latest Government spending cuts to councils.

In what is being described as a "watershed moment" for town halls, local government secretary Eric Pickles said everyone had to contribute during austerity and councils needed to do "more for less".

Of Kent's district and borough councils, and county and unitary councils, eight have seen a reduction in central government funding.

It means tightening belts even more and potentially more cuts to services as they desperately try to make savings.

And it comes just after some town halls unveiled already reduced budgets for 2013/14.

In September, Kent County Council launched a budget consultation, with finance chiefs admitting they needed to find £60 million in savings over the next financial year. This included the possibility of slashing adult social care by more than £18m and vulnerable children's services by £3m.

Leader of Kent County Council, Paul Carter, said the latest cut of 1.9 per cent from Whitehall means additional savings need to be found.

He said: "The reality looks as though we're going to have to find another £15m, taking that up to £75m.

"We really have driven out and explored every area of efficiency. We have reduced the number of staff at KCC by some 1,500 full-time staff. We have really cut back on these costs to the bone.

"Finding this £15m is not going to be easy. We are determined that we will do that – and preserve good quality frontline services and freeze council tax for the third consecutive year."

Other councils face the same challenge with Medway seeing a 1.5 per cent reduction; Canterbury one per cent; Dover also one per cent; Sevenoaks 1.8 per cent; Shepway 1.3 per cent; Swale 0.6 per cent; and Thanet 3.7 per cent.

With council budgets running well into the millions, these deceptively low reductions will amount to huge spending gaps for already struggling local authorities.

Central government spending

Council	(cut/rise%)
Kent	-1.9
Medway	-1.5
Ashford	3.9
Canterbury	-1.0
Dartford	0.3
Dover	-1.0
Gravesham	0.6
Maidstone	1.6
Sevenoaks	-1.8
Shepway	-1.3
Swale	-0.6
Thanet	-3.7
Tonbridge and Malling	0.3
Tunbridge Wells	1.6

(Figures according to Department for Communities and Local Government)

Rural councils to suffer most

CHIEF executive of the Rural Services Network, Graham Biggs, said he was "extremely concerned" that rural communities would bear the brunt of these latest government cuts.

He warned that rural councils will face a bigger reduction in central grant and spending power than urban councils, based on initial analysis by the network.

It found that predominantly rural local authorities would see an average 3.81 per cent reduction in formula funding compared to a 2.04 per cent reduction for urban authorities.

Mr Biggs said: "This is a body blow for rural councils already struggling to provide services to countryside communities.

"Even before these reductions, urban areas received about half as much more funding per head than rural areas. This settlement further widens the gap.

"Rural residents already pay more council tax for fewer services because of historic government underfunding, so the settlement is very bad news for the countryside."

Council chiefs in Thanet said, based on their own figures, the cut actually amounted to 7.4 per cent – much higher than the 3.7 per cent specified by the Government.

A spokesman said, however, that things were not as bleak as they seemed.

"As TDC had modelled its budget assuming a cut of 10.1 per cent, the cut is actually smaller than that we had been prepared for," he said.

While more than half of our councils were getting down to work on how to tackle the latest blow, six were welcoming budget increases.

Ashford saw a pleasing 3.9 per cent; Dartford 0.3 per cent; Gravesham 0.6 per cent; Maidstone 1.6 per cent; Tonbridge and Malling 0.3 per cent; and Tunbridge Wells 1.6 per cent.

Local government secretary Mr Pickles said this latest shake-up in council funding would create a shift in spending power where 70 per cent of town hall income would be raised locally compared to 56 per cent under the centrally distributed system.

"Councils must keep doing their bit to tackle the inherited budget deficit because they account for a quarter of all public spending and still get through more than £114 billion of taxpayers' money each year," he said.

But chairman of the Local Government Association, Sir Merrick Cockell, said the latest cuts were "bad news" for local services.

"Local government has borne the brunt of cuts to public spending and this announcement confirms this will continue to be the case until

NEWS IN BRIEF

Disabled parking deal

THE Medway NHS Foundation Trust says it has reached an out-of-court settlement with a woman who had taken legal action over the introduction of parking charges for disabled blue badge holders at the Medway Maritime Hospital.

The trust said it did not believe the charges were discriminatory, but that it would be reducing its prices. Sue Groves, who brought the action, said she was "really pleased" by the outcome.

Plea over fly-tipping

FARMERS and landowners are being urged to report incidents of fly-tipping over the festive period in order for police to measure the scale of the problem.

The call comes from the Country Land and Business Association which says the illegal dumping of waste escalates over the Christmas period. Regional director Robin Edwards said: "Waste dumped illegally can contaminate land and rivers and threaten livestock and wildlife."

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POLITICS

MP named a taxpayer's pin-up

ROCHESTER and Strood MP Mark Reckless has been named the TaxPayers' Alliance Pin-Up of the Year after a public vote.



The Conservative MP, pictured, polled 36.3 per cent of the votes in a four-way contest organised by the independent group which calls for "lower taxes and better government".

He was nominated for having tabled the amendment to a parliamentary motion which saw the House of Commons demand a cut in the European Union budget.

He has also been shortlisted for Parliamentarian of the year by website Conservative Home.

Jonathan Isaby, political director of the TaxPayers' Alliance, said: "It is important to recognise those who have sought to do the right thing by taxpayers.

"Taxpayers have never been angrier about the way the European Union continues to squander our money, and they won't countenance anything but a cut in the EU budget when national leaders come to an agreement in the new year. So Mark Reckless makes a worthy pin-up for having forced a vote on the issue. The fact he was able to prove a majority of MPs support a cut in the EU budget should bolster the Prime Minister's negotiating position in Europe because it is now clear even a freeze in the EU budget – let alone a rise – could not be carried in the House of Commons."





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ENOUGH IS ENOUGH: Support groups are on hand to help victims

SUPPORT

Don't suffer physical or mental abuse in silence

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

A VICTIM of domestic abuse has urged others suffering at the hands of a partner to speak out for the new year and say "enough is enough".

Historically, the festive season is one of the times of the year when domestic abuse increases as families struggle with financial pressures combined with increased drinking.

These aggravating factors mean while most of us celebrate, others are subjected to horrific abuse, suffering in silence and wishing the festivities to be over. In a bid to help those victims, Kent Police is advising people to recognise signs of domestic abuse and for victims to report it.

A 20-year-old woman, from Gravesham, who was subjected to violence, has thrown her weight behind the drive.

She was assaulted by her ex-partner, who was jailed after she reported it to police.

REPORT IT

- If the incident is ongoing or life is in danger, call the police on 999.
- If you are a victim or witness of domestic abuse, please call police on 101.
- Visit www.domesticabuseservices.org.uk for help.
- Alternatively, call the freephone 24-hour National Domestic Violence Helpline run in partnership with Women's Aid and Refuge on 0808 2000 247 or the Men's Advice Line on 0808 801 0327.

"I went through it a number of times before I called the police. I just thought 'enough is enough'," she said.

"I had a lot of help from police and they put me in contact with support groups. To have somebody who listens and understands you is a nice feeling.

"It's stressful, but it's the best thing I could have done and the right thing in the long term."

Police are encouraging victims of verbal or physical abuse to report it, as well as perpetrators to take responsibility for their actions. They are also advising family and friends to report domestic abuse incidents on behalf of a victim.

DS Tim Smith, head of the public protection unit, said: "I'd encourage anyone suffering from abuse to report it. You may be feeling frightened, but you are not alone.

"There are a number of agencies and support groups which can offer support and we have trained officers who can provide advice at a time and place convenient for you."

A new multi-agency website www.domesticabuseservices.org.uk has been set up to provide victims, family and friends, young people and potential offenders with advice on dealing with and reporting abuse.

Users can find support groups where they live, as well as details of a range of organisations.

DIVORCE

A LEADING Kent law firm says January is one of the busiest months for couples to file for divorce.

Divorce lawyer James Muir-Little, partner and head of Furley Page's family law team, said it is common for couples to take the first few steps towards separation in the new year.

"We find that a lot of people who are having marriage difficulties try to get through Christmas, especially if they have children to think about, but once the festivities are over, they see the new year as the ideal time to make a fresh start," he said.

"The decision to divorce is one of the most important anyone will ever take. The emotional upheaval, worries about how much it will cost, and how it will affect your children make it very stressful."

He said getting early advice is crucial in helping couples gain control over a difficult and unfamiliar situation.

Winter Savings





The Trio Guest Bed
This Trio bed is designed as a space saving solution. Other mattress options available.
e.g. Single size with mattresses
Was £941 Now £649

Pillow Top Silk
Available as a standard non-drawer or optional drawer divan set.
e.g. Double size 4 drawer set
Was £1739 Now £1199

Diamond Latex Superior
The Sealy 'Diamond Latex Superior' features a Micro Quilted mattress, topped with a deep layer of Innergetic Latex. Available both as a standard divan set and drawer divan set, with a choice of size options.
Double size divan set Was £1188 Now £699

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2012

Capturing the images of what

By Chris Britcher
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WHILE the economic situation has dominated headlines, for many, 2012 was a vintage year.

From a visit by Prince Charles to Knole House in Sevenoaks, to street parties and celebrations to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, there was a royal theme running through much of it.

And in addition to the jubilee, the Olympic Games will define the year. Hundreds of thousands of us turned out on the streets to see the flame passing through the county – while the organising committee even beamed the iconic Olympic rings onto the equally iconic White Cliffs of Dover.

The weather played its part too, with heavy snow in February, followed by drought warnings and then non-stop rain.

Meanwhile it was an end of an era for some, with Folkestone Racecourse closing for perhaps the final time, and the towers of Richborough power station crashing down, as thousands gathered across east Kent to watch its dramatic collapse on a sunny Sunday morning.

It was not without its lighter moments too. Double Olympic hero Kelly Holmes, from Hildenborough, admitted even she didn't recognise herself when a statue of her was unveiled.

All in all, in many ways it was a picture perfect year – as this collection of some of the defining moments of the year, testify to. For a full review of 2012 turn to pages 17-21.



Raising a glass for the Queen's Jubilee...



...as residents joined together in celebration





A final jump at Folkestone Racecourse



Snow at Rochester Castle



Red Bull divers off the Maunsell Forts



Richborough Towers are toppled



'Honouring' Dame Kelly Holmes

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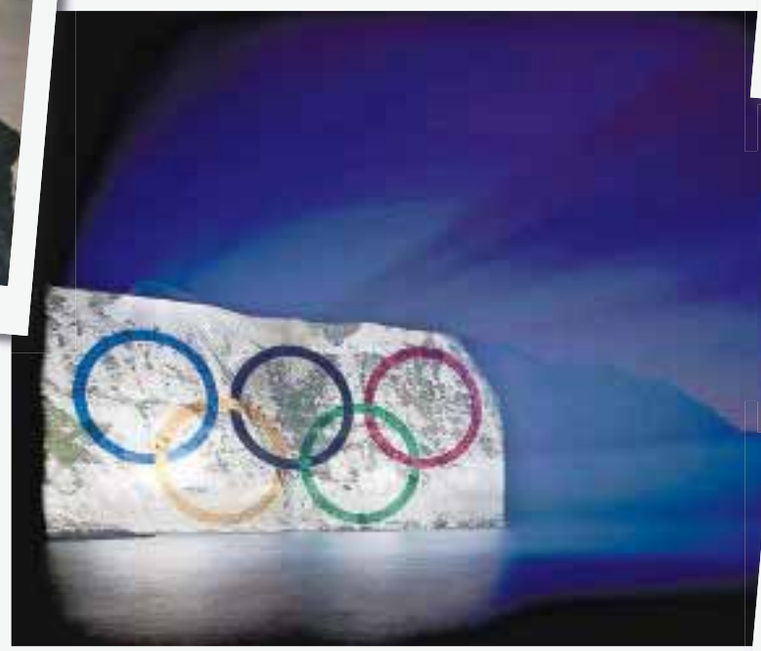
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- Cheese Plater per table

:: Course Five::
(Choose your desert from the A la Carte menu)
Coffee & Petit Fours

EMERGENCY

First aiders save heart attack victim sky diver at 12,000ft

By Joe Bill
joe.bill@archant.co.uk

THERE was drama in the skies above Kent as a veteran parachutist suffered a heart attack just seconds before he was due to plunge thousands of feet from an aircraft.

More than 12,000ft in the air above Headcorn Airfield, 74-year-old Dave Coveney collapsed as he prepared to jump from the plane.

The grandfather of one from Kingswood, Ashford, was attended in the air by the three parachute instructors on duty, Bernard Devine, Del Hopkins and Clem Quinn.

Thankfully, just days earlier the trio had received first aid and defibrillator training from Kent and East Sussex Air Ambulance staff and were able to perform CPR on Mr Coveney as the plane descended.

On landing, the parachute team was met by chief instructor Peter Sizer carrying a defibrillator.

The device was used four times to shock Mr Coveney's heart into re-starting before an ambulance arrived and the veteran sky-diver was taken to hospital.

Parachute instructor Clem Quinn said: "The defibrillator was absolutely brilliant and I'm totally converted to them. It's like having an expert suddenly appear on the scene and it was very reassuring."

Kent and East Sussex Ambulance's clinical manager Rob Wilkinson gave first aid and training to Headcorn Airfield staff days before the incident.

He said: "Without the willingness of the staff at Headcorn Airfield to have this training and use it so rapidly and appropriately, this man would not be alive.

"Training is routinely provided to around 20 members of staff at the airfield and we're really pleased it has paid off. It demonstrates another aspect of the Air Ambulance's life-saving work."

Mr Coveney is now recovering at home with his family.



LIFE-SAVING: Headcorn Parachute Club chief instructor Peter Sizer, Air Ambulance clinical manager Rob Wilkinson and parachute instructor Clem Quinn with a defibrillator

FOOTBALL CLUB TAKES CHARGE OF LIFE-SAVING DEFIBRILLATOR

MARGATE Football Club has taken delivery of a defibrillator in a bid to potentially save the lives of players and fans.

It follows the high profile incident of Bolton player Fabrice Muamba who was kept alive by the fast actions of first aid staff at a Premiership match earlier this year. And in recent years, the tragic case of Folkestone Invicta, and former Margate player, Paul Sykes who collapsed and died on the pitch.

The defibrillator was handed to the club by Mike Dadd, community resuscitation development officer at the British Heart Foundation and John Walters, from Margate, who helped raise the funds for the vital piece of kit.

Mr Dadd explained: "We are trying to put defibrillators in as many places as possible because it is so important to administer treatment after a cardiac event as soon as possible.

"We have an appeal running which if people wanted more information about, they can contact me at michael.dadd@secamb.nhs.uk and on 07833 047850."





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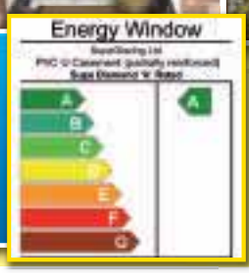
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2013

Looking ahead to a bigger and better new year

As the countdown to 2013 gets into full swing, the county's top brass have delivered their messages for the future






OPTIMISTIC: Paul Carter, Rodney Chambers, Ann Barnes and Ian Learmonth hope for a bright 2013

Paul Carter, Kent County Council leader

I wish you all a prosperous and happy new year. 2012 has been a very memorable year, though not without its challenges.

I am enormously proud of what the county has achieved. To name a few highlights – welcoming the Olympic torch in July; more than 30,000 school children taking part in our biennual Kent School Games; securing a future for the Pfizer site to retain over 1,000 jobs; and the news Kent's young people have delivered the county's best ever exam results at all key stages.

In 2013, we will continue with our strong track record of economic growth and job creation.

We are working hard on promoting tourism and inward investment and through our Grow for It campaign we are highlighting east Kent's value for entrepreneurs. Kent Jobs for Kent Young People is cutting the red tape for employers and we now have more apprenticeships than anywhere else in the country. In the year ahead we will continue to work with schools and further education colleges to promote these opportunities to businesses and our young people.

Understanding the pressures on family incomes, we will continue to keep costs down for residents with the intention of freezing council tax for a third consecutive year. We will continue to stand up for residents in the year ahead.

Cllr Rodney Chambers, leader of Medway Council

It is impossible not to think of the euphoria that swept the nation last summer. Watching our Olympians win gold gave us all a lift, as was evident when the torch relay visited.

We had numerous other milestones in a year of celebration, including 200 years of the Royal Engineers being based in Medway, and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

And – as always – there was an array of free festivals with the aim of ensuring Medway is an attractive place to live, work and visit. The council has spent much time helping to secure inward investment and jobs – an important task at any time, but particularly now.

This is evident in our apprenticeship scheme, which has helped more than 1,000 young people get their first taste of the workplace and led to permanent jobs for many. Employ Medway, which helps people back into work, has also helped around 900 people secure jobs.

Looking ahead, the start of the £650m Chatham Waters scheme in Gillingham – which will provide 3,500 jobs – and potential regeneration of Rochester Airport – 1,000 more jobs – will help to boost the range of work available.

In 2012, Strood Academy opened, with two more set to open new buildings in the new year.

As residents tighten their belts the council must do the same; our Better for Less scheme is set to achieve £14 million of cumulative savings while improving the way you receive services.

Medway has achieved a lot in the past 12 months and will continue to do so in 2013. I wish each and every one of you a happy new year.

Ann Barnes, Police and Crime Commissioner

I've already received more than 1,000 emails and letters in my month in office. I have taken an oath knowing that in so many ways 'the buck stops with me' as the link between the police, the people and our communities.

My vision is clear. This is about every community in the county. Their problems will be my problems, and I will work to solve them.

Next year I will be delivering on my manifesto promises. You are my priority and if you have a policing issue then that is important to me.

This is the year that I will be out of the office more than I am in it. Some of you may have already seen my Ann Force One van. I am committed to visiting as many places as I can to find out your views. I will be in the Maidstone, Weald and Malling areas early next year.

I do hope 2013 brings you every happiness.

Police Chief Constable Ian Learmonth

I would like to thank the people for their support. I have been touched by the number of people who have taken the time to speak or write to me to say what a good job they think their police do.

We don't always get it right, but policing is a difficult business, and we couldn't do it without the support of the people we serve. Men and women, dedicated to doing their best for the community with courage, compassion and integrity, are required to make (often) snap decisions 24 hours a day. They do a first-class job.

The jubilee was a real high point for 2012. We had one of the largest numbers of street parties in the country – more than 400 – and there was a tremendous sense of community.

The force has had another successful year. Crime continues to fall for the seventh year in a row, and satisfaction with our service from victims of crime and anti-social behaviour continues to rise. Public confidence in the police overall is rising. I want to continue to build on these results to provide an even better service.

Officers, staff, special constables and volunteers will all be working to help keep Kent one of the safest parts of the country.

Make it your New Year's Resolution to make a Will.

Hi, I'm Richard Ratcliffe and as a lawyer it is my job to help when life gets difficult. One of the saddest things I have to deal with is sorting things out when a loved one dies. All too often this is made much more difficult for the family because there is no will. Dying is not something we want to dwell on so we put off making our wills, but it's quick and inexpensive and you will know that you have saved your family a lot of heartache when you are gone. You owe to them. Call me and I can help.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Star of comedy series of 1970s uses spa town as inspiration for his latest published novels

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A FORMER child star has lifted the lid on a sinister side of Tunbridge Wells in a pair of new books that could become a TV series.

But residents needn't get too upset – the author insists it's all fiction.

David Barry, 69, who lives in Rusthall, played gum-chewing mother's boy Frankie Abbott in popular comedy Please Sir! which ran on ITV from 1968 to 1972.

But after appearing on the show, and then its spin-off series The Fenn Street Gang – as well as the big screen version of both Please Sir! and seventies hit George and Mildred – he's stepped away from the front of the camera and is now penning a series of what he has dubbed "dramadies".

And he's routing out the underbelly of his new home town to create them.

Careless Talk: Secrets and Lies in a Small Town near London, and its sequel More Careless Talk, are certain to set local tongues wagging, wondering where his inspiration comes from.

He said both contain a host of quirky and humorous characters, woven together by the central character, an itinerant hairdresser who, cutting deeper into the lives of the Tunbridge Wells residents, learns that the town is a hotbed of vice, intrigue and gossip.





TALES TO TELL: Popular actor David Barry has written two books

The author explains: "In the 1980s, I used to watch a mini series on Channel 4 called Tales of the City, starring Olympia Dukakis, and set in San Francisco. I later discovered they were a series of books by Armistead Maupin that had been written as a newspaper serial initially, so each chapter was consistently no more than 1,200 words.

"Now that publishing is changing, and more and more people are reading electronic books on Kindle, Kobo and Nook, I thought it the right time to create a work of fiction that people could read in short bursts, ideal for commuters, reading a chapter or two, and becoming involved with great characters and plots, and keen to discover what happens next, just as Maupin had done with his newspaper serial all those years ago.

"Because I live in Tunbridge Wells, and often visit many of its watering holes, it seemed the ideal town to write about and create characters – some based on real people, but as composites so as not to upset anyone – that would be interesting and quirky.

"Often I get ideas for stories from local newspapers, and I like to think of Careless Talk and its sequel as 'dramedy' – in other words, a mixture of comedy and drama. I also like to think it makes an interesting historical document about Tunbridge Wells and the surrounding areas.

"I am meeting a TV producer/writer and production company in January to discuss the possibility of a mini series, which was, I suppose, part of my intention in the first place."

Born in Wales, his new titles are published as both e-books and paperbacks. If enough sell, it will become a trilogy with Even More Careless Talk.

PLEASE SIR!



Set in the fictional Fenn Street school, the popular series was broadcast from 1968 to 1972.

It starred John Alderton as a teacher fresh out of training college and the trials and tribulations of his first job.

David Barry's Frankie Abbott character was one of the key pupils out of class 5C. A movie version was released in 1971 featuring most of the cast.

A spin-off series, The Fenn Street Gang, followed the adventures of class 5C after they left school and entered the big wide world.



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REVIEW OF THE YEAR

2012: Year that will burn brightly in the memory for many years to come

From the Diamond Jubilee to the huge success of the London Games, the past 12 months have undoubtedly brought us as a county closer together... Here are just some of our highs – and lows

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk









IN THE PAST: From the Olympic torch's journey through the county to visits from Hollywood royality, via economic woes and bad weather, Kent's has it all

WHEN 2012 was born, its future was pretty clearly mapped out from the start.

It was the year, primarily, when the Olympic Games would finally deliver or disappoint on a global scale, as they came to London.

Would we, in Kent, cash in? Would we all lose interest? Would any of us get a ticket?

And, perhaps more significantly, would any of us be able to get in and out of the city during the Games amid predicted travel chaos?

And then there was the case of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee – for which we all got an extra bank holiday and the chance to brush off the picnic table and meet your neighbours with a street party. In short, we knew there would be two great big knees up in Kent this year.

Looking back now, with the comfort of hindsight, only the most optimistic of us could have imagined at just what a glorious party both events would be; a rare chance to wallow in some healthy nationalistic pride and see our reputation as an efficient, well-oiled and friendly country, beamed around the world.

Granted, in much the same way we knew there would be two big events to bring a little sunshine into our lives, we were under no illusion that the dark clouds of the economy would loom large over us all year.

The outlook started bleak, and indeed it remains so. But then it rained for the jubilee and that didn't stop everyone having a good time.

While we all found the purse-strings tightening and the cost of, well, pretty much everything, rocketing, it didn't stop the good folk of Kent from having an eventful year, full of incident and more than a healthy dollop of community spirit.

And if we ever got bored, well there was always the old chestnut of building an airport in the Thames Estuary to debate until the cows came home.

In a special look over the past 12 months, we cast our minds back to what 2012 brought as it prepares to bid us a final farwell.

Continued on page 21

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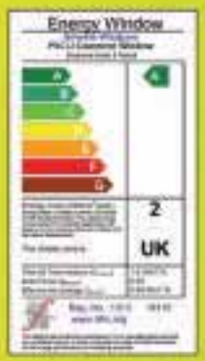
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Continued from page 19

Month **Jan**

THERE was precious little good cheer at the start of 2012, as economic problems took their toll at Thamesteel on Sheppey leading to its closure, leaving hundreds out of work and wondering where the money they were owed was going to come from.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy, meanwhile, was wading into efforts to refloat cross-Channel operator SeaFrance and save jobs.

The Gurkhas were told 400 of them from across the UK would be cut from the British Army. With many based in Kent, it was a poor way of marking their dedication to serving our Armed Forces.

Colonel Tim Collins, meanwhile, emerged as the frontrunner for the Conservative candidacy for the year's Police and Crime Commissioner elections.

And it was confirmed the Richborough Towers would be pulled down – a memorable and much-loved landmark of east Kent.

Month **FEB**

THE month got off to an icy start as heavy snow fell across most of the county. Fortunately, most of it fell over the weekend and quickly thawed.

There was a very special birthday celebrated, as fans from across the world united to mark the 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Dickens. And no more so than in Kent, where the author spent much of his childhood and returned for his final years.

The first retro video game exhibition – Geek – took place in Margate and proved a hit, while ferry firms DFDS and LD Lines combined to launch a new cross-Channel service.

Orpington businessman Christopher Tappin lost his battle against extradition and was flown to America where he faced charges of selling weapon parts to Iran.

And water companies told us all to pray for rain as they prepared to usher in drought restrictions. Never underestimate the power of prayer – it would rain pretty much non-stop for the next four months.

Month **Mar**

IT MAY have been leaving many cold, but the runners and riders for November's race for the Police and Crime Commissioner started jockeying for position.

Someone else hoping to stand out from the crowd was Maria O'Connor. The Sandwich restaurant owner was one of the candidates hoping to win favour with Lord Sugar in BBC's show The Apprentice; she didn't and was the first to be fired.

In Canterbury, the Westgate Towers were closed to traffic amid warnings of traffic chaos. Almost a year later and the row rumbles on.

There was more doom and gloom with the announcement Kingsnorth Power Station was to close, while Manston Airport was put up for sale by owners Infratil.

Meanwhile, the county bid an emotional farewell as thousands gathered from miles around to watch the Richborough Towers come crashing down in dramatic fashion.

There was also a special service to mark the 25th anniversary of the Herald of Free Enterprise disaster in which 193 people lost their lives.

Month **Apr**

ANOTHER maritime anniversary was marked in 2012 with the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic – and we highlighted those in Kent caught up in the tragedy.

Dr Rowan Williams confirmed he was stepping down as the Archbishop of Canterbury at the end of the year – sparking much debate as to who would replace him.

Another high-profile departure was Kaddy Lee Preston who quit BBC South East, although she does continue to pop-up on our screens in a freelance capacity.

Music fans were a tad underwhelmed as the Hop Farm Festival confirmed Bob Dylan as its big name headliner; he had performed at the gig just two years before.

As the start of the Olympic Games drew ever closer, Kent commuters were warned to expect travel chaos and start planning to work from home where possible during the event.

Month **May**

THERE was surprise all round when Roy Hodgson was the shock appointment as the new England football manager.

His CV as a player included stints at a host of Kent non-league clubs, among them Ashford, Tonbridge, Maidstone and Gravesend.

Prince Charles flew in to the county by helicopter for a tour of Knole House, while he would no doubt have been delighted by the many successes of Kent's horticulturists during the Chelsea Flower Show.

The local elections sprang one major surprise in Tunbridge Wells, when popular council leader Bob Atwood lost his Rusthall seat to Ukip's Piers Wauchope. Mr Wauchope would be back for the Police and Crime Commissioner race, but not be so successful.

There were red faces at Kent County Council as a former worker with the same name as leader Paul Carter found an admin mistake put £20,000 of the leader's expenses into his bank account instead.

Month **Jun**

THE month was dominated by the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, with 350 street parties taking place across Kent.

However, the weather was less than kind, with the long weekend something of a washout.

It was a glum weekend for Thanet, in particular, as its beaches were forced to close after heavy rain saw raw sewage flood into the sea.

There was better news for Margate, however, as it was named one of the Portas Pilot towns to benefit from a cash injection and help from high street guru Mary Portas in reinvigorating its town centre. Dartford also got the nod, and Ashford would join the list later in the year.

Labour and the Tories unveiled candidates for the PCC elections, but it was apparent whipping up interest in the election would be tricky.

Month **Jul**

THE summer arrived – albeit intermittently with the rain tumbling down for most of it; although at least it meant the hose-pipe ban introduced in April was called off.

The festival season was in full swing with big crowds for both Lounge on the Farm and the Hop Farm Festival... although not big enough for the latter which was a financial flop.

Kent County Show was severely hit by the rain with car parks becoming swamps and organisers forced to close them.

We estimated the wet weather had cost the county's economy some £10 million.

However, the rain could not dampen the spirits created by the arrival of the Olympic torch. Its



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Continued from page 21

Month **Aug**

JUST one word to described August – and that was 'Olympics'. We were transfixed by the sporting spectacle which passed off in gloriously successful fashion.

Even the predicted travel problems didn't materialise as the county made alternative arrangements. Sport clubs reported a big spike in interest too as the feel-good effect radiated far and wide.

Meanwhile, Ann Barnes was the surprise entry into the race to become the PCC. She resigned as chief of the Kent Police Authority – which was being disbanded to make way for the new post – and stood as an independent.

Shopping giant Bluewater provided some good news after hinting at major expansion plans and the creation of 1,500 new jobs.

K College, however, planned to cut 140 jobs and put plans for a state-of-the-art Ashford campus on ice amid financial concern.

Meanwhile, the pong which pervaded the county was less of a laughing matter. We revealed it was due to farmers spreading fertiliser on their fields, but it created a bit of a stink.

Month **Sep**

AS KENT on Sunday celebrated its 10th birthday, popular BBC show the Antiques Roadshow rolled into Chatham.

The Hop Farm Festival organisers revealed it had made losses and would slump into administration. It seemed inevitable it would not be returning in 2013.

KCC confirmed a £60m shortfall in its 2013/14 budget which, inevitably, heralded yet more cuts... Not that former KCC managing director Katherine Kerswell was feeling the pinch.

After pocketing a £420,000 pay-off at the end of 2011, she re-emerged with a £142,000 job in the Cabinet Office. Nice work if you can get it.

Financial problems at K College continued to rumble on, with unions calling for strike action... the full extent of its problems would not be revealed until later, however.



2012 GOODBYES

Dave Lee
Comedian and Canterbury panto regular (funeral left)
Jimmy Godden
Businessman
Kevin Lynes,
KCC councillor
Mark Worrall,
Tonbridge council leader
Sir Brandon Gough, Deputy Lieutenant of Kent
Don Durbridge,
Local radio DJ
Tony Nicklinson,
Locked-in syndrome, right-to-die campaigner
Clive Dunn,
actor and former Sevenoaks schoolboy
Mike Snelling
Former Gravesham council leader

Month **Oct**

THE full scale of the crisis at K College was revealed with £16m debts, hundreds of jobs hanging in the balance and question marks over the future of sites in Folkestone, Dover and Ashford.

Celebrity chef Richard Phillips won back his Michelin star for Tunbridge Wells restaurant Thackeray's, but Reed's in Faversham had its taken away after more than 20 years.

A huge leisure park, backed by Hollywood film studio Paramount, was unveiled for Gravesend, promising thousands of jobs and a major boost to tourism.

Meanwhile, the 25th anniversary of the great storm which swept through the county was remembered.

There was sad news too, as the father of tragic murder victim Claire Tiltman died.

Cliff Tiltman had hoped to finally see the person responsible for his daughter's death in Greenhithe in 1993, when she was just 16, brought to justice.

And charities said they were being deluged by a huge spike in calls in the wake of the Jimmy Savile paedophile allegations.

Month **Nov**

AFTER all the talk, we finally took to the polls to elect our first-ever PCC. Well, 16 per cent of us did at least. However, despite the poor turnout, there was no disputing the winner; Ann Barnes won in every part of the county.

Manston received a boost as Dutch airline KLM unveiled it would be running £99 return flights to Amsterdam from next April, while Kent County Cricket Club said staff were under threat of redundancy as it looked to balance the books.

Dr Justin Welby was appointed the new Archbishop of Canterbury, while Ian Patel, editorial director of Kent on Sunday, left his post after more than 10 years.

Hollywood's Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie stayed in Canterbury for a few days while Brad filmed his latest movie at the former Pfizer site.

Month **Dec**

SO the end of the year came round and we found ourselves, surprise surprise, with wet weather – a recurring theme.

Rail operators and MPs emerged from a meeting pleased with reassurances that when snow came the county would not grind to a halt. With comedy timing, we had a dusting a week later and, you guessed it, the network waved a little white flag.

The end of the world on December 21 didn't materialise, while the Rolling Stones did, on stage at the O2 Arena. The Dartford rockers weren't cheap to see though – even the cheap seats cost more than £100.

The 2011 Census results were revealed – with 6,700 Jedi Knights found to be living in the county!

And, in a year dominated by the Olympics, there was much talk of the much-discussed legacy which we had been promised.

The debate on that, rumbles on...



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OPINION

Different approach to Manston

TIM SPURRIER, of Thanet Green Party, questions whether airport would become a more profitable venture if it did away with the planes?

SINCE Manston Airport is up for sale, news of new flights to Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport is not a guarantee this struggling business will succeed.

The delight of Sir Roger Gale MP and Kent County Council at the deal should be put into perspective.

It has been followed shortly and sharply by the announcement, at a safe distance in New Zealand, that Manston owners Infratil are looking at a change of use in the hope that it will be easier to sell; they are losing millions on the airport.

It is ironic that Conservative Party members, including Sir Roger, with their belief in the free market, have been suggesting subsidies to the business in the form of phasing out of air passenger duty – particularly given that aviation is the single fastest growing cause of greenhouse gas emissions.

Thanet Green Party is sure a lot of people would like to stop paying their taxes, but public coffers can scarcely be bulging with money to throw at failing airports when our NHS is seeing cuts of some £15 billion over the next three years.

Kent Green Party has long proposed that alternative uses be looked at for Manston, particularly for the possibility of it being converted to a major leisure facility.

The plans were derided as "pie in the sky" by Roger Gale, who asked: "Where would the money come from?"

Perhaps if he, and others, had not been so single-mindedly fixated on the airport as the economic saviour of east Kent they could have considered the Green Party's suggestions.

The economic impact of a busier Manston has been found to be less than most people would anticipate.

A report by consultants Parsons Brinckerhoff found: "Given that Manston Airport employs a proportionately large workforce for a small throughput, growth of passengers and freight in the short term may not necessarily lead to significant employment and economic impact."

Meanwhile, Gravesend has won a £2bn deal for a major leisure centre anticipated to create 27,000 jobs.

There is no use crying over lost opportunities, but we believe it is imperative, as Kent Green Party has long suggested – and owner Infratil itself is now considering – that alternative and sustainable uses for the site are explored as a matter of some urgency.

Thanet Green Party would note that some €365 million is available from the European Commission next year through its smart cities and communities partnership. The fund is there to put into motion sustainable integration of energy, transport and IT technologies.



Economic impact of a busier Manston has been found to be less than first thought

With Thanet a growing hub for the renewables industry we are sure some funds could be harnessed for our area in a positive, job-creating manner.

We would note that both Siemens and Vestas have been looking to invest millions in turbine plants in the UK. There are other options for Manston and it is time policymakers began to take them seriously.

The Government needs to stop subsidising the aviation industry to the tune of billions of pounds – not subsidise it further. There is little time left for excuses; the Government urgently needs to encourage low-carbon and higher capacity transport.

Failure to tax aviation fuel, and choosing not to levy VAT on tickets and aircraft, amounts to a subsidy worth around £10bn every year in the UK alone. Stop airport expansion and shift shorter air journeys to the railways.

KOS COMMENT

Raise a glass to 2013 and a brighter future

IT HAS been another challenging year courtesy of the economy, but here's hoping 2013 finally sees some sunlight amid the gloom.

Kent has plenty of challenges to face - not least the threat of an airport on our doorstep - but also in terms of ensuring traditional and emerging industries are supported by the necessary infrastructure to ensure while there may continue to be short term pain, we are in a position to ensure long term gain.

By all pulling together, by ensuring we all support the less fortunate, we will emerge stronger than ever before and once again blossom into a county full of opportunity, optimism and confidence. Happy new year.

Shop local for the sales

RETAILERS will be hoping to cash in this week as we all look to work off the calories by taking to the streets in pursuit of a bargain in the sales.

But this year, be sure to shop wisely. Our town centres are facing enormous pressures and need your support more now than ever.

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Airport could be pride of UK

LET'S have an airport in the Thames Estuary. It will bring in thousands of jobs and reinvigorate the county.

We have to think of the future and not live in the past.

Airplanes are cleaner and far less noisy nowadays.

We have aircraft from the City airport flying up and down the estuary all day and into the evening.

If not an estuary airport, then why not use what's on offer at Manston airport.

It has long runways so planes take-off over the sea and excellent transport links with the rest of the south east via the Thanet Way and M2 into London. Why not build a rail link or fast track to Ramsgate?

Let's build an airport that we can be proud of, and show the rest of the the world how good we can be.

Paul J Carter, Dartford

Grounded by traffic woes

ALONG with attempts to revive expansion plans at Heathrow and Gatwick, and rescue failing airports at Lydd, Manston and Medway, these ideas are beset with hugely expensive airport infrastructure proposals that would increase air pollution, noise and the UK's contributions to greenhouse gases and climate change.

The latest proposals for an airport off the Goodwin Sands would cause a massive increase in traffic on east Kent roads already seriously congested, and lower air quality and property values.

Consider this from the point of view of the potential traffic impact if a major airport was built in the estuary, on the Goodwin Sands or elsewhere.

Heathrow had 25.7 million car movements by 2010, and is forecast to reach 34 million by 2020.

There is no prospect that Kent's existing or imaginable road structure could cope with such vehicle movements.

If the Government is serious about building up employment in Kent it will support domestic tourism.

It will aid owners of existing airports to follow the proposals being made for Rochester airport, and begin conversion of existing airport sites to other uses. All-weather leisure proposals should be considered for Lydd and Manston particularly.

Given the cost of food, some of the land might well be economically and expeditiously returned to agriculture.

Steve Dawe, Kent Green Party

Racecourse falls at the last

WE have so enjoyed our many visits to Folkestone Racecourse over the years, and therefore are very disappointed to see this facility close.

Doubtless the huge crowd which turned up for the final meeting would surely agree.

The event attracted good fields including a host of top trainers and jockeys, among them champion jockey AP McCoy.

We understand the closure is 'temporary', but with all the staff now redundant, racing artefacts being removed and other non-racing organisations soon to occupy the site, how feasible will it be to see the course resurrected and reopened in the near future – or is this a forlorn hope?

What is the voracity of assurance that we have not seen the last ever race?

Will the cynical view prevail that nothing will happen?

Can the doors be kept open for the track owners and local authorities to come to a practical and mutual accommodation to ensure Kent has at least one operating racecourse?

Facilities at Lingfield are first class, but too far for most of us in Shepway.

No doubt our pleas will fall on deaf ears and yet another leisure facility will be denied to us, the residents and visitors to east Kent.

Mr & Mrs Summerfield, Hythe

Grave error in letter blast

On December 14 a neighbour told me to read the letters page of our local paper; there was a letter sent in from a county and local councillor.

He had written in the hope of scoring cheap political points publicly in pointing out my husband – also a local councillor – had missed the last residents' meeting in our area.

This is a rare occurance, as my husband takes his duties seriously and has attended 99 per cent of these meetings over the years.

While the councillor was trying to points score he should have first found out why my husband was not at the meeting; he was missing as he was supporting me at the graveside of my step-father whom we had just buried abroad the same day.

The letter from the councillor opened wounds at a time I was grieving for my step-father, which was further complicated by the fact he lived abroad, and as next-of-kin had a lot to deal with in the very short period of time we were there.

It meant I could not begin to come to terms with all that had happend until we returned home.

I have written to Kent County Council to express my concerns.

So when you next vote and you have a person selling themselves as the best candidate to represent you in government on your door step think hard, and if you're not sure what kind of moral fibre they are, stand for election yourself, and raise the standards.

Mrs T Alexandrou, Ramsgate

Retired have much to offer

I WOULD much like to compile a list of retired people who have skills, trades, crafts, and would be happy to pass these on to young people.

I believe a great number of retired people would be happy to do just that, thereby making a considerable contribution; giving them a sense of satisfaction and pride, paying back our local society, and so helping these young people.

I believe it would give these well-meaning people a sense of purpose and fulfilment.

They, and all of us, know there are quite a number of people who are unemployed, many of whom have modern IT skills etc which they, in turn, would be pleased to pass on to people who perhaps have not got such skills.

Together we could form a social enterprise, not for profit, which could become self-financing by retailing products made during training, creating an income to cover the overheads.

If you feel that you would be willing to help with such a project then I would be pleased to hear from you.

Cllr Tom Mason, Medway
Email: Tmason358@aol.com

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KENT REMEMBERED



Harking back to the traditions of the past to mark festive times

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

CHRISTMAS Day may be over but in medieval times the festive season would be celebrated across the full 12 days up to and including January 6.

For in the middles ages, the season was a very important time and many of its customs will seem very familiar – as food, drink, music and even pantomimes were popular.

Other pastimes included hunting – although tournaments were banned by King Henry II, at Christmas and any other time of year.

One celebratory drink of the time was wassail, which was served throughout the festive season. The name comes from the Old English words waes hael, meaning "good health."

A strong, hot drink – usually a mixture of ale, honey and spices – would be put in a large bowl, and the host would lift it and greet his companions with "waes hael", to which they would reply "drinc hael" – "drink and be well."

Throughout the month, visitors to Dover Castle have had the chance to experience life in the 12th century with special exhibitions and events giving a taste of how Christmas was celebrated.

Other customs, of the time, were developed as part of Christian belief. Mince pies were baked in oblong casings to represent Jesus' crib, and it was important to add three spices – cinnamon, cloves and nutmeg – for the three gifts given to the child by the Wise Men.



PARTY: Our celebrations are rooted in those of medieval times

The pies were not very large, and it was thought lucky to eat one mince pie on each of the 12 days of Christmas, ending with Epiphany, January 6.

Advent was a period of fast but Christmas itself was celebrated with a feast, the most popular main course was goose, but many other meats were also served. Turkey was not brought to Europe from the Americas until around 1520. Then, because it was inexpensive and quick to fatten, it rose in popularity as a Christmas feast food.

One dish, no longer consumed, was "humble pie" made from the "humbles" of a deer – the heart, liver and brains.

While the lords and ladies ate the choice cuts, the servants baked these less-appetising pieces into a pie, which made them go further as a source of food – thus the phrase, "to eat humble pie."

The Christmas pudding of modern times evolved from the medieval dish of frumenty – a spicy, wheat-based dessert.

In the middle ages, the Church would decorate trees with apples on Christmas Eve, which they called "Adam and Eve Day". However, the trees remained outdoors.

Holly, ivy, and mistletoe were all important plants – with traditions dating back far earlier than medieval times.

It was believed that good spirits lived in the branches of holly, while early Christians believed the berries had been white before they were turned red by Christ's blood, when he was made to wear the crown of thorns.

Ivy was associated with the Roman god Bacchus – who was also associated with revelry – and was not allowed by the Church as a decoration until later in the middle ages, when it was believed it could help recognise witches and protect against plague.

Carols, though very popular in the later middle ages, were at first frowned on by the Church but became popular anyway, with the the clerics eventually giving up their opposition

The 12 Days of Christmas song also evolved from a musical game. One person would sing a verse then another would add their own lines, repeating the first person's verse until each day had been commemorated.



The sweetest thing is honey love at wild animal park

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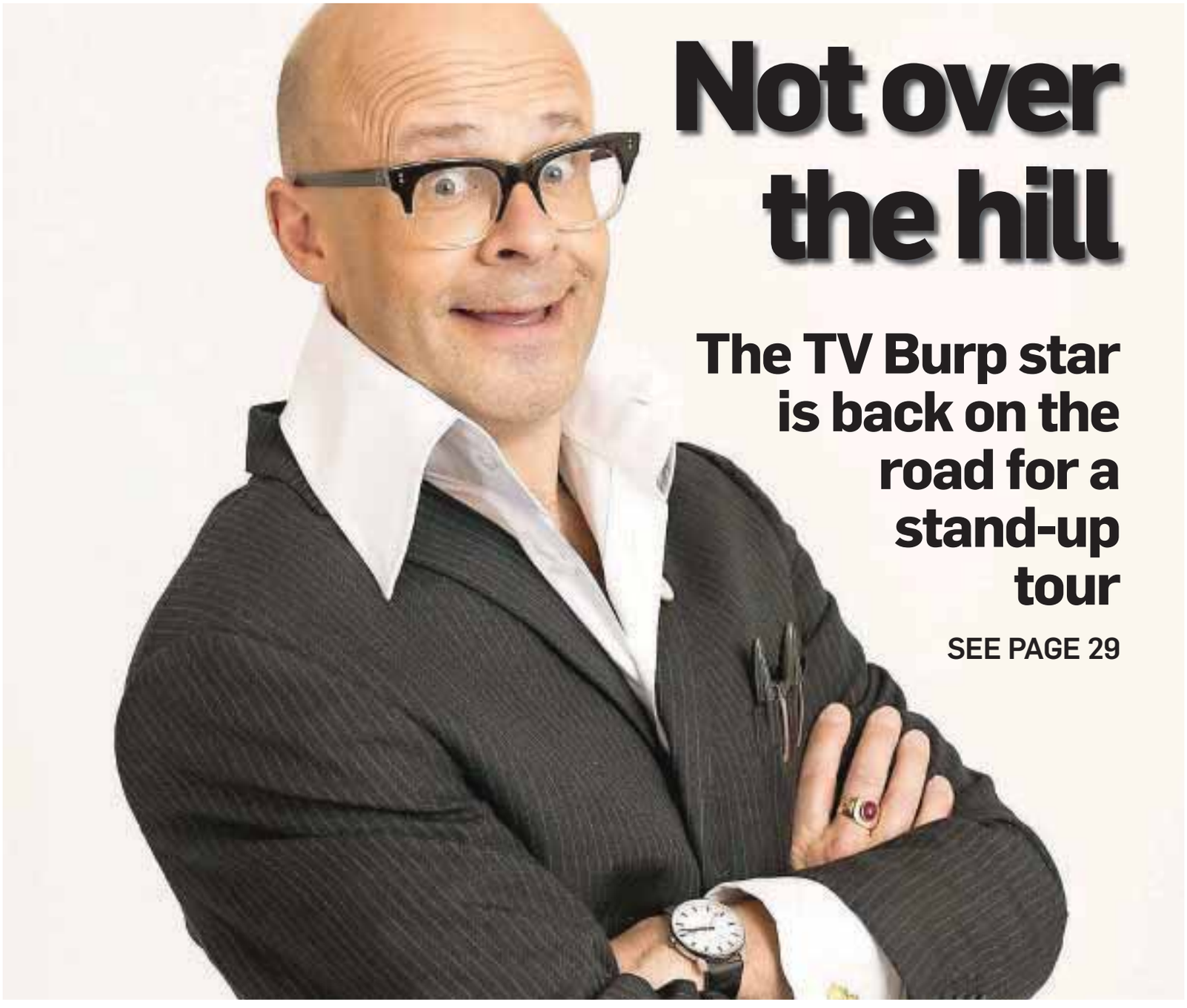


MILTON JONES

New tour is a work in progress for this popular funnyman

SEE PAGE 29

Kent Weekend



Not over the hill

The TV Burp star is back on the road for a stand-up tour

SEE PAGE 29

PLUS: An unexpected find provides a moment of Zen - **food and drink p26** The Romanian invasion is back on - **driving p37**

To be included on this page, please email **features@kosmedia.co.uk**

Asian fusion that will be able to compete with the big boys

RESTAURANT **REVIEW**

THESE days we're spoilt for choice, with every kind of restaurant imaginable boasting food from practically every country in the world.

The number of eateries serving Asian food also seems to have soared in the last decade, and so for one to stand out among the rest, they have to so something pretty special.

I didn't expect that something special to be found in the centre of Folkestone, but then I came across Zen Kafe.

Located in the heart of the town, this unassuming restaurant, sitting between a shoe shop and an old cinema, could easily have gone unnoticed.

Boasting "Oriental fusion cuisine", I feared a hotch-potch of different Asian foods and – as so often experienced in other fusion restaurants – nothing particularly stand-out.

The restaurant is designed, as you would expect, with Asia in mind, with authentic décor and – like many other modern Asian eateries – a nod to the contemporary.

We sat at a cosy corner table with bench-style seating and ordered drinks before a friendly waitress took our food order.

The menu boasted a selection of Asian favourites, from gyoza – deep-fried Japanese dumplings



– to the more familiar wasabi prawns and edamame beans.

We ordered the Zen platter to share – this comprised spare ribs, sesame prawns toast, chicken gyoza and Vietnamese spring rolls.

We also chose a separate order of salt-and-pepper ribs... just enough to tease those taste buds without leaving us too full, these tasty starters hit all the right notes, with fresh ingredients and chilli heat running throughout.

Next I chose the Thai chill ramen: ramen noodles topped with grilled chicken, fresh chilli, sugar snap peas, sweet corn, Chinese leaf and bean sprouts in a Thai sweet chilli soup.

I've never been great with hot food, but this noodle dish was so fresh and tasty that I braved the chilli heat to wolf down mouthful after mouthful of this moreish plate of food (just days later, I chose this same dish at a well-known Japanese restaurant and it was not nearly as good.)

My dinner guest chose the phad Thai and the Zen laksa curry: prawns, chicken, beef and roast pork cooked in a Malaysian-style curry with onions, peppers, fresh chilli, baby corn and sliced potatoes.

This again packed punch with flavour and confirmed my earlier thoughts that this small restaurant, in the centre of a seaside town that has so often been knocked for its fading charm – at least in the recent past – could really be a contender among the big boys.

Fresh, tasty food with a warm, authentic atmosphere, it's no wonder that Zen Kafe is – I later learned – a favourite with the locals.

The bill came to £44.

Marijke Cox

■ **Zen Kafe**
4 Guildhall Street, Folkestone CT20 1DZ
(01303 256885)

Get involved with your own stylish bake-off

GET your rolling pins ready and have your wooden spoons on stand-by as there is now a chance for the county's residents to enjoy their own baking bonanza.

Great British Bake-Off winner and celebrity baker Edd Kimber is on the look-out for the best home bakers in the region to be self-raising and come forward to display their skills.

The national winner will bag the prize of a baking masterclass with Edd, as well as a digital food thermometer, a signed book from the chef and a KitchenAid Mixer.

The closing date is Monday, December 31. To enter, visit www.thermapen.co.uk/win.

Another newcomer at shopping centre

THE Wintergarden dining area at Bluewater has welcomed another new business following the 2012 opening of Giraffe, Ask and Jamie's Italian at the site.

Lola's Cupcakes opened just in time for the Christmas rush, becoming the first of the bakery chain stores outside London.

Owner Asher Budwig said: "The centre perfectly meets our requirements in terms of high footfall and premium shopper demographic.

"We look forward to providing shoppers with our delicious, handmade cupcakes on a daily basis and invite them to stop by, say hello and enjoy a treat from our range of Lola's flavours."





THE INTERVIEW

Harry Hill

Just what the doctor ordered

He's not missing TV Burp at all... one of Kent's top comics is back on the stage

HARRY Hill has not done a live stand-up tour for six years. But the Kent comedian is now back on the road – and it has been well worth the wait.

In his new show, Sausage Time Live, the floppy-collared comic returns to dazzle on every level.

For instance, he pledges to give us absolute proof that God exists, provides a section exclusively for Tongans, furnishes us with a summary of Harry's Nan's latest ailments, showcases the legendary Stouffer the Cat and offers a debut solo stand-up spot to Gary, Harry's son, best known for his role as Alan Sugar in Harry Hill's TV Burp.

The funnyman, who has a home in Whitstable, promises performances by show band The Harrys, as well as a giant sausage. What's not to like?

Having grown up in Staplehurst and attended Cranbrook School, Hill will be bringing his tour to two venues in his home county, Tunbridge Wells's Assembly Hall Theatre and The Marlowe in Canterbury. But despite his time away from the live circuit, fronting the award-winning TV Burp, his views on stand-up haven't changed.

"There's never a serious agenda to my comedy," he said. "I use a lot of slapstick and silly wordplay and puns. The show doesn't have an overall theme. It's just a load of silly stuff."

The comedian has been doing lots of warm-up shows and has relished the experience of performing live: "I've loved it – it gives you such a buzz. Hearing laughter is such an exciting feeling."

He adds that compared with the long-winded process of making TV shows, stand-up offers "freedom".

"For TV, there is a long time between writing a joke and getting a laugh. You have to write a script, have meetings, explain to the producer why it's funny and shouldn't be cut, and explain to the prop-maker what the prop should look like. Then you turn up and the prop is wrong. The new prop turns up 10 minutes before filming but, even though it gets a laugh, the producer still wants to cut it. It's a laborious process."

"Stand-up is so immediate. You have an idea in the morning and get a laugh in the evening. No one else can tell you what to do, apart from the audience. The audience is the ultimate arbiter."

Hill, who gave up a career as a doctor to concentrate on stand-up two decades ago, is looking forward to the natural high that comes with live performance.

> **When you're on stage everything else has gone and you're living in the moment. That's what you're aiming for in life.**
>
> HARRY HILL, ON STAND-UP

"At its best, stand-up is like a car race. You're driving along and accelerating as the audience is laughing. You're on such a roll that almost anything you say is funny. You're not even thinking about it. It's just automatic.

"It's like you're constantly changing up a gear. You can even stop suddenly and then speed off again. It's like you're driving the audience. It's an amazing feeling of power. You can understand why some performers go off the rails."

Having bowed out at the top by ending TV Burp in 2012 after 11 years on screen, new show Sausage Time Live will have all of his focus in 2013.

"When you're on stage, everything else has gone and you're living in the moment. That's what you're aiming for in life. You're not worried about the future or the past. It's quite difficult to achieve. It's the same effect as meditation or Class A drugs – probably."

"Stand-up is what I've always wanted to do. It's what I gave up medicine to do. It is the bedrock of everything I do."

The comedian, who has won multiple BAFTAs and British Comedy Awards, did reveal a little about the show.

"I have a whole shtick about Broken Britain. It's a micky-take of Middle-England paranoia. I pick on someone in the audience and accuse them of putting their rubbish in their neighbour's wheelie-bin. I get really angry about it.

"We're paranoid about this country falling apart because it is, but there's nothing we can do about it. It's finally caught up with us. I'm not saying why. I'm just taking the micky out of that over-reaction. I get furious with the audience for their misdemeanours because there is something really funny about people getting angry over trivia.

"We're obsessed with dividing up our rubbish and putting it in different bags. That's so annoying. In one local borough, they distribute plastic bags for you to put your recycled rubbish into. Any system that relies on plastic bags for recycling is obviously flawed."

Hill, who is married with three daughters and a son from a previous marriage, explains why he has been away from stand-up for so long. "TV Burp took up so much time. I wanted to tour, but I couldn't do it to my family. Even when I was at home, I was having to watch TV all the time and was mentally somewhere else.

"It was a great stress watching TV for hours and hours. You can do that for six weeks, but not for weeks on end. We felt we'd done all the jokes we could. How many more jokes are there to make about EastEnders? By the end, pseudo-documentaries like The Only Way Is Essex did the jokes for us."

And as Hill said, there were no regrets about pulling the plug on the popular TV show.

"At the end of the last show, the production team were crying, but I felt like a weight had been lifted. The closest equivalent was when I gave up medicine. When I left Ashford hospital for the last time, I had this feeling of euphoria – I'm not missing TV Burp."

So back to the stage it is and there is no place Hill would rather be. "I've done it for a long time and I think it's funnier now I'm older. It's more incongruous. The older you are, and the higher your status, the less likely you are to be rolling around on the floor with a giant sausage."

■ Harry Hill is at The Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury, on Thursday, February 7 – book at www.marlowetheatre.com or by phoning 01227 787787. He also plays the Assembly Hall Theatre in Tunbridge Wells on Friday and Saturday, February 15-16 – visit www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk or phone 01892 530613. Tickets for both venues are priced at £30.





A most magical place

It's the little kingdom

Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells
Tuesday, January 22-Wednesday, January 23
01892 530613
www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk

FROM the makers of Peppa Pig comes a BAFTA-winningTV animation for the stage.

Have fun in Ben And Holly's Little Kingdom helping Gaston the Ladybird clean up his messy cave. Then go on a trip into The Big World with tooth-fairy Nanny Plum and plan a surprise birthday party for King Elf – let's hope there's not another jelly flood!

This adventure is packed full of games, songs and laughter on a journey through the Magical Kingdom. With actors, masks and colourful costumes, this story of elves, princesses and childhood innocence will delight all the family.

Tickets are priced at £13.50 for adults and £11.50 for children.

Countdown conundrum

What a party!

The Brew House Hotel, Tunbridge Wells
Monday, December 31
01892 520587

WHERE to go and what to do on New Year's Eve...

It's a time that seems to cause endless pressure, but The Brew House Hotel in Tunbridge Wells is offering the perfect solution with its New Year's Eve party in The Old School House.

It is open for groups of eight or more and features a seven-course meal, disco, midnight countdown and glass of bubbly, all for £55 per person.

Events manager Melissa Brooker said: "The party is perfect for those who just want to enjoy themselves with their friends and family without worrying about cooking or entertaining."

For more details on this great bash, visit www.thebrewhousehotel.net/events.





A real holiday romance?

Sweet couple

Howlett's Wild Animal Park, Bekesbourne
01227 721286
www.aspinallfoundation.org

LOVE is in the air at Howletts Wild Animal Park, near Canterbury, which has welcomed a female honey badger called Bee Bee.

Keepers have high hopes that the female badger, who travelled from Germany, will be the ideal mate for popular park resident Tyson.

Ben Warren, head of carnivore section, said: "Bee Bee is very sweet and is getting on well with Tyson.

"It was his birthday and Bee Bee was the perfect present for him."

Honey badgers are native to Africa and have a reputation as one of the fiercest animals on the continent. They have been known to take on wildebeest and even lions when necessary.

Still rovin'

The boys from The Dubliners

The Orchard, Dartford
Monday, March 25
01322 220 000
www.orchardtheatre.co.uk

SEAN Cannon, Patsy Watchorn, Eamonn Campbell and Gerry O'Connor are all legends of Irish folk music.

Both Cannon and Campbell were members of the legendary Dubliners for close to 30 years, while Watchorn joined more than a decade ago as they continued to set the standard for Irish music in the charts.

They are famous for hits performed alongside Shane MacGowan and The Pogues, including The Irish Rover and Whiskey In The Jar.

The group continue under the own names to enhance the legacy started by former Dubliners men Ronnie Drew, Luke Kelly and Barney 'Banjo' McKenna.

The lads are looking forward to an extensive 2013 tour playing the classics.



Photograph posed by model ©Getty Images. Emma's story draws on real life examples from NSPCC services, but does not describe a specific case. Texts will be charged at £4 plus your standard rate. A minimum of £3.97 will be received by the NSPCC. By using this service you agree to being contacted by the NSPCC by telephone or SMS. Registered charity numbers 216401 and SC037717.

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Musical mix
Landsborough ready to rock

Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone
Thursday, March 14
0844 871 3015
www.leascliffhall.co.uk

CHARLIE Landsborough is one of the good guys. The hard-working musician is set to tour once more in 2013, and Kent is high on the list.

Multi-award-winning and critically acclaimed, Landsborough takes his own brand of ballad, blues, country and spiritual music back on the road to mark the release of his 26th album.

Now in his 70s, at a time when others are slowing the pace, he is still performing to large crowds all over the world.

In 2011 his talent was recognised when he was inducted into the British Country Music Hall Of Fame.

He is well known for success with songs like What Colour is The Wind and I Am Red.

Tickets are priced between £15 and £26.



A dream show
Joseph shows his colours

Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone
Wed, Jan 30- Sat, Feb 2
01622 758611
www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk

THE Tim Rice and Andrew LLoyd Webber classic musical, Joseph And The Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat, heads to Maidstone for a spectaular New Year stint.

This popular musical, which has been performed across the world, brings a 120-strong youth choir, a stunning lead cast of 26 and a professional 10-piece orchestra as part of its touring show.

The play was made famous by its hit song Any Dream Will Do, while the lead role of Joseph has been claimed by stars such as Jason Donovan, Phillip Schofield and, fresh from his BBC reality-show triumph, Lee Mead.

Tickets are available for £11 or £8 for concessions.

A multitude of madness
Soul of Suggs

Central Theatre, Chatham
Wednesday, April 3
01634 338338
www.medwayticketslive.co.uk

MADNESS frontman Suggs is heading to Medway to tell the story of his life.

He said: "I've just turned 50, the kids have left home and my cat just died." It was this sad event that triggered him going on a quest to discover what happened to the father he never knew.

Stunned by what he learns, Suggs is taken back to his childhood on the tough streets of 1970s Soho and his first appearance on Top Of The Pops at the age of 18.

Is it a play? Is it stand-up comedy? Whatever it is, hold on to your seats as Suggs reveals his thoughts, actions and secrets. There is music throughout, featuring some of the greatest hits.

Tickets cost £22.50-£25.





Milton's on the make
Joker Jones in the city

The Gulbenkian, Canterbury
Saturday, January 12
01227 769075
www.kent.ac.uk/gulbenkian

MILTON Jones is back on the road with another tour, but unfortunately it isn't quite ready yet.

The new show, entitled The Work In Progress On The Road Tour, will see the now very popular performer make it up as he goes along. But don't panic – he's a professional and has recently been playing the panel shows, with appearances on Mock The Week and Never Mind The Buzzcocks.

He has also recently featured on BBC's Live At The Apollo and performed nine of his own Radio 4 series.

If you love his old stuff, you'll recognise celebrated one-liners and delight in brilliant new jokes you'll hear before anyone else.

Tickets are priced at £12.50.

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Hayling Island

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From £119pp

Quote MR-KOS

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- Breakfasts & dinners
- Entertainment



We'll Meet Again £119pp

18 January, 2013

Free Bar 6pm to midnight nightly

3-Night Half Board Break: A stunning line up of shows featuring 60s Hit Parade, Disney Songbook, ABBA Party, Spirit of Song & the Vera Lynn Story delivered by the Mill Rythe Show Cast.

World Cruise £149pp

28 January, 2013

Free Bar 6pm to midnight nightly

4-Night Half Board Break: Enjoy a 'voyage of entertainment' including World Dance Lessons - Latin, Samba & Tango, classic deck games & films such as Carry on Cruising, Titanic, Doctor on Board & episodes from the Love Boat.

Moonlight & Roses £139pp

15 February, 2013

Half Price Bar one night

3-Night Half Board Break: This weekend is perfect for a romantic break away. Enjoy champagne on arrival and wonderful entertainment plus shows from the Mill Rythe Showcast.

Carry on New Year 99p Bar Parties at Bosworth Hall Hotel

Market Bosworth, Leics

Self-Drive, 2 nights, half board PLUS 99p drinks

Was ~~£109~~pp

Now £89pp

Quote BH1/2-KOS

4, 11, 18, 25 January

8 & 22 (£99) Feb, 2013

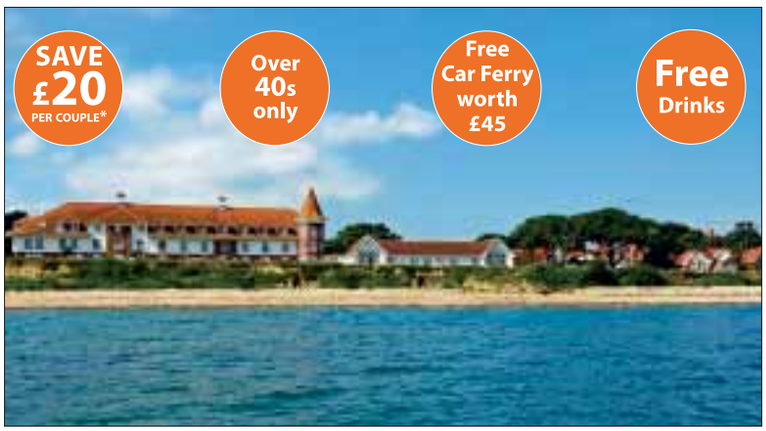
Extend your New Year Celebrations with a fantastic value break at popular Bosworth Hall. Our Carry on New Year Party weekends have become a must-do annual event with guests returning year after year. Enjoy 99p drinks from 6pm to 11pm and entertainment nightly at Bosworth Hall Hotel, located in the village of Market Bosworth, Leicestershire. All the bedrooms are en-suite with TV, telephone, trouser press and tea & coffee tray. Leisure facilities include an indoor pool & gym (£4 per day payable at the hotel).





INCLUDED:

- 99p drinks from 6pm to 11 pm nightly - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks and mixers
- 2 nights sharing a twin/double-bedded en-suite hotel room
- 2 breakfasts & 2 dinners
- Entertainment



Isle of Wight Carry on New Year Party

For over 40s only

Warner Bembridge Coast Hotel

Self drive, 3 nights, half board PLUS Free Bar

Was ~~£239~~pp

Sale Price £229pp

Quote BX1-KOS

Friday 11 January, 2013

Join us for a party that extends the New Year festivities – for over 40s only. This year's party at Warner Bembridge was a big hit with our guests, many described it as their best party break ever! In 2013 we're back at Bembridge, our favourite Warner hotel, on the seafront on the Isle of Wight.

Our weekend break includes a gala New Year's Eve party – complete with countdown to midnight and Big Ben striking in the New Year, a Buddy Holly tribute, comedy impressionist Chris Gee and more, plus great food in the refurbished restaurant, Free drinks from 6 to 11pm every night, and car ferry worth £45 per car.

INCLUDED:

- Full entertainment programme
- Free Bar from 6pm to 11pm every night for house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers
- 3 nights en-suite hotel accommodation – upgrades available
- 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts
- Car ferry crossing worth £45



Swinging 60s Seaside Party

Pontins Pakefield, Suffolk Coast

Self-Drive, 3 nights, half board PLUS 99p drinks

£99pp

Quote PR3-KOS

Friday 8 March, 2013

We're taking over Pontins Pakefield for the weekend to take you on a trip down memory lane with great variety entertainment including a 60s tribute act and a host of nostalgic fun from quizzes to films.

Pontins Pakefield Holiday Village is situated on the Suffolk coast near Lowestoft.

Enjoy entertainment every night and day with Pontins famous Bluecoats and visiting cabaret acts — PLUS a choice of bars and eateries, an indoor swimming pool, snooker, pool, darts, short mat bowls, 9-hole pitch & putt, tennis court and more.

The recently refurbished chalets are all single storey and situated on level ground, in landscaped grounds just a short stroll from the main facilities and car parks.

INCLUDED:

- 99p Bar from 6pm to 9pm every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers
- Full entertainment programme
- 3 nights en-suite chalet accommodation - upgrades available
- 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners

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(T&C's below)

LINDA young 62, smoker, seeking gent, 55-65 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400521**

SINGLE mum, 35, white British, 5ft 2ins, varied interests, looking for male to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400329**

5FT female, brown hair, 39, single mum, seeks caring, dedicated guy. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397915**

JOYCE 82, widow, seeking man who is fun loving and good humoured for meals out, 60-70's. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393067**

FEMALE seeks Prince Charming, 20-30 to sweep her off her feet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392891**

NICKY 45, 5ft 2ins, blue eyes, blonde hair, looking for genuine male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389774**

COUNTRY loving outgoing female, blue eyes, 5ft 2ins, genuine, caring, intelligent, seeks honourable, smart, professional male, 68-75 to share laughter and companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392899**

MARY 61, lot to give, likes country/western, animals, gardening, dancing, seeking someone special. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399269**

FEMALE early 60's lots to offer someone special likes dancing music divorced looking for someone could it be you? **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400213**

SINGLE mum, new to Canterbury, 37, attractive, blonde, seeking soul mate, preferably with car. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397751**

52YR old female, single mum of 2, seeking honest, caring, decent man. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389891**

SUSIE young 55, slim, 5ft 3ins, seeks tall, honest guy from Medway towns. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389027**

BLACK African lady, late 30's, no ties, likes country walks, gardening, cinema, seaside, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393272**

DEBBIE 50, seeking man, 60 plus with GSOH for fun nights out and cosy nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398173**

MARGARET 57, looking for male companionship with GSOH for nights out, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390248**

MARY 62, fun loving, enjoy most things, 5ft 5ins, dark hair, green eyes, size 14, lives alone in country, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385189**

RETIRED teacher, blonde, 5ft 4ins, medium build, youthful, easy-going, likes most things, seeks tall, refined gent for meaningful relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397363**

MIRANDA early 60's, sociable, friendly, seeking similar N/S solvent, presentable, easygoing male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394843**

MICHELLE petite fun female, outgoing, enjoys holiday abroad, OHAC and pretty self-sufficient, looking for someone to share a LTR with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399515**

SENSUAL female looking to enjoy life a little more, seeking likeminded male to enjoy interesting conversations over dinner, hopefully furthering our experience. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399195**

BLACK beautiful female, 5ft 7ins, likes most things in life, seeks special male for companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398391**

SANDRA outgoing 53, carer, seeks male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390230**

48YR old female, kind, loving, caring, genuine, fun loving, loves music, singing, theatre, holidays, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387797**

FEMALE looking for male for friendship and romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392365**

HAPPY young looking 71yr old female, likes life, fit, active, seeks male, 60 plus. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393065**

DEBBIE 47, single parent, likes motorsport, seeking male with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398127**

YOUNG looking lady, late 50's, medium build, caring, intelligent, seeks kind, caring, intelligent man with GSOH of similar age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398095**

ANNETTE 58, 5ft 1ins, cuddly, affectionate, likes animals, seeks kind, gentleman to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394923**

LYN 59, slim, fair, looking for someone to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397347**

LOUISE loving, caring, thoughtful lady, likes photography, countryside, animals, seeks mature, N/S, genuine, caring, N/S gent with car to settle down with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397239**

45YR old female, 5ft 5ins, brown hair, cuddly, curvaceous, love animals, music, sports, seeks kind, caring, sincere, mature male, 40 plus with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381319**

PAT widowed mid 60's blonde female, loves dancing, happy-go-lucky WLTM similar aged nice male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389195**

FEMALE 21, brown eyes, loving, looking for male, 20-30 for nights in and loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396057**

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INTERESTING attractive, uncomplicated, intelligent lady, many interests, seeks honourable, kind gent, 68-75 for long term companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392211**

FOLKESTONE lady, 58, 5ft 1ins, animal lover, cuddly, affectionate, GSOH, seeks male, 58-63 to enjoy life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395551**



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SUE 54, fairly slim, blue eyes, brown hair, seeks male, 45-55, N/S, likes football, sports, meals out etc., looking for lasting relationship and cuddles. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392803**

WIDOW 70's, many interests, seeks gent who misses companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396401**

SUE 53, slim, blue eyes, likes football, animals, seeks N/S male, 45-55 for loving, lasting relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386247**

FEMALE likes country walks, gardening, animals, seeks male for company, meals out and nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390147**

LYNETTE 60, South African, new to area, N/S, sociable, like the outdoors, looking for new friends. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386387**

BLACK female, 30, likes animals, swimming, music, singing, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395941**

LUCY kind caring, honest, fuller figured, blonde, blue eyes, 44, looking for older man, kind, caring and honest. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395805**

LORRAINE 5ft 9ins, medium build, 49, bubbly, looking for male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386401**

CLAUDIA curvy size 20, Mediterranean, blonde hair, brown eyes, seeks mature male, 40-55 for friendship, companionship and enjoy life together. Ashford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373611**

HAPPY go lucky lady, seeks tall, honest guy, 50-56 hopefully with a boat. Kent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392529**

PAT 67, 5ft 4ins, medium build, blonde hair, widow, likes dancing, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390201**

KENTISH lady, 50, no longer wishes to make do or mend broken heart, seeks kind gent to form patchwork moments. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392865**

63YR old female, loving, tactile, seeks genuine male, 60-65. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381863**

HAZEL blonde, 62, pretty, cuddly, N/S, non drinker, seeks genuine, attractive male, 55-65 for fun and friendship. Ramsgate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366319**

JO bubbly, fun, red hair, green eyes, 5ft 5ins, likes nights out, DVDs, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374337**

BLACK lady, 52, likes cinema, nights in/out, seeking male, 49-55 to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390925**

SANDRA 63, likes cuddles, varied interests, WLTM male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383497**

SUSIE from Kent, seeking tall honest guy for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375883**

INDEPENDENT 52yr old slim, N/S female, likes country walks, swimming, animals, meals/days out, seeks N/S similar aged male for friendship/companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366099**

Men Seeking

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PHIL 61, 5ft 10ins, slim, GSOH, likes cooking, gardening, football, meals out, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400519**

PROFESSIONAL male, early 40's, fun loving, independent, OHAC, seeks warm, sincere, fun loving female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400403**

SLIM bi male, smooth, seeks male, 50 plus for flexible daytime fun. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394012**

51YR old male, dark hair, 6ft, N/S, good looking, likes finer things in life, seeks lady for fun times and TLC. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399867**

PLEASANT single black male, slim, 41, good natured, likes most things, seeks likeminded lady for possible relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399825**

DEREK 52, black male, honest, trustworthy, loyal, hardworking, likes nights out, meals out, quiet pubs, seeking similar lady for serious relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393886**

LONELY male, 75, 6ft, N/S, OHAC, seeks lady for friendship/companionship to share our twilight years. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393830**

MARY likes most things, nights out, socialising, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383847**

LONELY Folkestone lady, 57, 5ft 1ins, medium build, N/S, seeks caring, considerate male for walks by the sea and pubs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371067**

LISA tall slim elegant black lady looking for gentleman for company, 50-90yrs. Discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391394**

BEVERLEY 33, blonde hair, blue eyes, seeks male, 40-45 for walks, karaoke and meals out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375217**

47YR old female, 5ft 6ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389413**

MAIDSTONE lady, pretty, petite, late 50's, honest, caring, N/S, loves life and most things, seeks nice guy for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366501**

JULIE late 70's, petite, widowed, seeks gent with car and GSOH who loves animals. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379277**

TERRI young at heart, fit, caring, N/S, 70's, many interests, Taurus, seeks kind, N/S gent, 65-70 with GSOH to share life and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390671**

SALVATORE 68, widow, looking for female to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399613**

JAMIE tall slim fit 63 solvent generous retired seeks vivacious fun lady for no strings fun. Any age/status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400211**

DAVID 51 medium build short hair blue eyes widowed likes nights in/out walks with dog caring thoughtful seeks honest genuine female 45-56 for friendship maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400099**

BUILDER 43, tall, good looking, GSOH, kind, considerate, easy going, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399935**

FUN fit, friendly 50yr old male, medium build, seeking female for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400045**

JACK 28, fun loving, seeking female to share the good and bad times with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393878**

DOWN to earth 49yr old male, GSOH, OHAC, happy go lucky, fit, intelligent, witty, many interests, seeks young at heart female to share life experiences with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399965**

YOUNG 64yr old male, slim, GSOH, adventurous, outgoing, likes most things, seeks easy going, laidback, open-minded lady for friendship and good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399539**

BRIAN 6ft 3ins, medium build, dark hair, seeking romantic, caring lady for meals out, nights in, cuddles and true love. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399451**

ADRIAN young 59, likes travel, sports, seeks fun, attractive lady 40-50's. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399355**

20YR old male, looking for female, 45-50 for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393676**

RAY 41, shy, likes gardening, allotments, mopeds, seeks shy lady 41-50 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397301**

MALE 67, 14st, tall, educated, happy go lucky, seeks nice female, 50-65 for companionship. Folkestone/Deal area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398743**

RICHARD seeking young female for good times and fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397883**

WIDOWER 70, lonely, fed up, seeks female for nights out, meals and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397875**

MARTYN 45, average guy, likes films, theatre, meals out, GSOH, seeks similar female for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397863**

RICHARD 60, 5ft 11ins, medium build, N/S, driver, looking for female for meals out, places of interest. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393508**

BOBBY 39, Afro/Asian decent, dark hair/eyes, likes nights in/out, walks, animals, seeks similar female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398147**

PAUL 51, blond, blue eyes, fed up, likes walks, nights in/out seeks lady, 50-60 for friendship and good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398991**

PHIL young 63, GSOH, 6ft, medium build, easy going, seeking female, all woman for lots of love and attention. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399149**

YOUNG toy boy, GSOH, seeks mature, attractive, curvy lady, 45-55 for fun times and laughter. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398419**

74YR old widower, honest, fit, likes walks, weekends away, seeks lady for companionship. Maidstone/Medway area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398247**

THANET male, smart, young 60's, caring, 5ft 5ins, dark hair, likes travel, countryside, seeks slim, attractive, local soul mate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398661**

ROGER 56, smoker, brown hair/eyes, average build, likes most things, seeks female for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397243**

DAN 44, fun, seeking nice female to share Sundays and lonely Winter nights with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398425**

PAUL 63, white, N/S, GSOH, varied interests, considerate, reliable, caring, seeks romantic, understanding lady, 47-67 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398971**

GHOST researcher 65, slim, dark hair, WLTM amiable, slim female companion in Canterbury/Folkestone area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398937**

MARK 49, likes running, music, cinema, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393554**

RICHARD dark hair, blue eyes, slim-medium build, 5ft 6ins, likes holidays, theatre, travel, countryside, walks, meals out, seeks female, 37-69 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398767**

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EASY-GOING guy, 64, medium build, 5ft 10ins, likes outdoors, seeks slim, quiet, N/S guy for possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400371**

GAY male, new to scene, seeks male, 50-65. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400025**

MUSCULAR male, likes wrestling, fast cars, seeks similar dominant male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399939**

BI guy 44, looking for broadminded bi guy 45 plus for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395165**

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Friendship

JACK mature male, Thanet area, seeks friends of either sex, any age for chats. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399455**

STRAIGHT male, 39, Medway, seeks pals for socialising, likes pubs, cinema, golf, table tennis, football. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398421**

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GUYS TEXT FOR FUN. SEND KOS followed by the box number of the person you wish to chat to and send to **66888**
(T&C's below)

50Yr old Christian brunette, attractive, friendly, lonely, likes bowling, reading, cooking, outdoor life**. Text KOS 154567 to 66888**

BEAUTIFUL thing, attractive lady, n/s, beautician, enjoys fashion, antique fairs, days out & country drives. Want to know more. Text me. **Text KOS 159134 to 66888**

FUN blue eyed blonde, a little dizzy at times but a big bundle of fun. **Text KOS 163788 to 66888**

HEY guys! My interests include music, reading, tattoos, cooking, hanging out with mates and many more things. Text me! **Text KOS 168355 to 66888**

I AM an adventurous, outgoing and loyal person. I enjoy going places and trying new things I am a very active person. **Text KOS 172922 to 66888**

FUN, bubbly, happy go lucky, single, mummy, work hard, play hard, friends, family, horse, gym, wine, movies, random nights **Text KOS 218842 to 66888**

I LOVE going out and having a laugh. Im new to all this, so be patient lol. **Text KOS 182056 to 66888**

Men TEXT FOR FUN!

*see t&c's below. No meetings implied or guaranteed. **Texts cost £1.50** per message Help Desk: **0844 445 7707**

LADIES TEXT FOR FUN. SEND KOS followed by the box number of the person you wish to chat to and send to **66888**
(T&C's below)

DIVORCED Male 59, VGSOH, n/s easy-going, enjoy music, poker, cooking, watch football, having a pint in a local pub. **Text KOS 488556 to 66888**

I LOVE the arts, countryside and eating out. Honest, sensuous, with lots to share and give. **Text KOS 493123 to 66888**

I HAVE many interests but derive pleasure from everyday things,whether it be a walk in the park or a coffee by the river. **Text KOS 497690 to 66888**

ROMANTIC guy. I have many interests, but derive pleasure from everyday things, whether it be a walk in a park or coffee by the river. **Text KOS 502257 to 66888**

SPORTY gentleman. 46 yo I have a fun friendly chatty personality! Drop me a line :) **Text KOS 506824 to 66888**

CONTACT US...



If you have a business story or any news you think we should be covering in this section, reporter **Nick Ames** would like to hear from you.
You can phone him on **01303 817181**, or alternatively email **nick.ames@archant.co.uk**.

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Full house of shops was best gift of all for Creative Quarter



WELCOME: Extra shops opened in The Old High Street at Christmas

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

ALL the retail properties owned by Folkestone regeneration group the Creative Foundation in the town's Old High Street were open for business over the Christmas period.

And the organisation has outlined its goals for 2013 – to encourage more tenants to relocate to the town and get them working together to improve job prospects and the economy of east Kent.

Ioannis Ioannou, marketing and engagement manager, said: "We want to create a vibrancy about the area and a sense of community which will, itself, act as a way of attracting people."

One project under way is pop-up shops.

Ioannou said: "An entrepreneur may have a business idea but not want to commit to a year-long lease. So they can rent premises for two or three weeks and see if their idea works.

"What's the point in leaving properties empty when they can be used for tests and trials in this way?"

The arts-led regeneration of Folkestone is masterminded by the foundation, which offers favourable rents for properties that have been brought back from dereliction.

Acrosss the entire old part of the town that is covered by the project, 30 out of 41 retail units are occupied, and some of those unused are being brought back to useable status.

All of the residential properties are in use and 83 per cent of the studios have an artist, sculptor or other creative person on site.

Success stories for the year include Driftwood Design, run by Christine McNicholas, which has progressed from a collection of wood acquired while walking a dog two years ago to a thriving store, while patisserie Fresh And Easy is moving to a larger store, as is The Cauldron Of Inspiration, which stocks items associated with alternative beliefs and magical rites.

Guest stores open just for the Christmas period and set to close next week include clothing and blankets store Skylarks, vintage clothing and accessories outlet Patsy's and gift shop Mermaids And Seagulls.

"We want to create an environment where businesses can feed off each other and assist one another," said Ioannou. "We have seen an influx of young professional people with their families, some from London. Now we want to also make sure they tell the rest of the UK what we are doing here."

International recognition for call centre

A KENT company that started nine years ago with just four staff has been awarded the title of third best call centre in the world at an awards event in Las Vegas.

Kent Science Park-based telephone-answering service-provider GoResponse successfully represented the UK at the grand finals of the Contact Center World Awards in Las Vegas by being named the third best call centre on the planet.

The news rounds off an outstanding year for GoResponse, which had already picked up three awards at the regional finals in June, including being named best small contact centre and managing director Mark Kirby being announced as best executive.

The awards took place at the Treasure Island hotel on the Las Vegas strip and featured competition from finalists from across the globe.



WELL DONE! GoResponse's success was recognised at a shining event in Las Vegas

GoResponse secured the bronze medal for best small contact centre, and Kirby also won the bronze medal in the leadership category.

GoResponse won the awards after presenting to 150 fellow nominees and senior representatives from call centres across the world.

Kirby said: "Winning these awards tops off what has been an incredible year for us and I'm extremely proud – both of the hard work that has been put in by the team to get us this far and of the results we're seeing from it.

"I think that being named the third best call centre in the world is a terrific achievement – especially considering that we started GoResponse nine years ago with just four employees.

"We're not going to rest on our laurels, though – we're going to keep pushing ourselves until we're best in the world.

"Attending the grand finals was a unique experience – I've been to awards before but none this competitive or well attended. These awards are the Oscars of our industry and are even more significant because we were selected by peers in the industry, meaning our competitors across the globe see us as a formidable force to be reckoned with and recognise what we are doing right."

Chairman steps down from harbour board

ROGER Mountford, chairman of Dover Harbour Board, is to retire tomorrow (Monday) after 12 years on the board.

The Secretary of State for Transport, Patrick McLoughlin, has appointed the present deputy chairman, George Jenkins, as his successor.

Mountford was appointed to DHB in January 2001 and became deputy chairman in May 2008. He has been chairman since January 2010.

Mountford said: "I am very proud of the high-quality service that the Port of Dover, along with our ferry operators and cruise-line customers, provides to millions of passengers each year as well as supporting UK-European trade. We have made great progress in improving efficiency and safety as well as pioneering port master planning in the UK and delivering major projects."

From 2001-09, while a board member, Mountford saw investment in the port's infrastructure reach £116 million. Subsequently, as chairman, he approved a capital plan through to 2015, totalling some £85 million, and secured Government approval of the second ferry terminal scheme, which will be the biggest ever single investment in the port.

The Government recently rejected a bid to privatise the Port of Dover.



GOODBYE: Roger Mountford

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Book helps the next generation on to the property ladder and beyond

PROPERTY For The Next Generation is based totally on my experience – my experience on two fronts, first investing in property and buying my own portfolio and then teaching my daughter about money and investing.

For the first 18 months (mid 2008-10) I had been reading books and attending courses, putting this learning to action, seeing what worked and what didn't, and then learning to adapt to what was an incredibly volatile investment market.

Then in the second year and a half (2010-11) when my daughter started to ask me to buy her a property, I needed to draw on my personal beliefs about empowering young people and teaching them the value of money – it would have been too easy to buy her a house and hand it over. Would she have valued it and respected it? Or valued me and my gift? I don't believe so.

The second set of learning came in the process of working with my daughter to help her meet her goals. It had to come from her and there was a real Eureka moment when Kimberley asked me to help her buy a house.

I started to understand several critical lessons; she did not understand money like I did (through my past two years' experience) and I needed to share that with her – to teach her the underpinning principles of managing money and buying a significant investment. Then to explain the practicalities of viewing a property as a business investment and not just an emot-ional purchase, as this would become the start of her portfolio... a property to remain in the family until it was the right time to sell.

Vicki Wusche went from being a single mother on limited income to financially free with a property portfolio worth £2 million in just 20 months. She has been investing for many years and runs a successful business sourcing prospects for other investors and teaching people how to invest. As the author of three property investment books, she has also helped her daughter buy her own place using the techniques that she teaches in her book Property For The Next Generation. Here Wusche explains how we can all benefit from her approach.





In my non-economics brain it's simple for individuals to make an impact on the wider picture by remembering a few simple points.

- We are spending too much and disempowering society as generations learn they can do nothing and still get paid.
- Society costs too much – with an ageing population, the cost of pensions and healthcare will increase and it is already unsustainable.
- If we all commit to becoming more self-sufficient, we will become less of a drain on Government taxes. So don't rely on a Government pension – make your own. In my opinion, property is as safe as houses – we all need somewhere to live.
- As you start to invest in property and earn more income through your rental profits you are then in a position to spend more income in shops and so stimulate the local business economy.
- Business improves as everyone become more confident, sales improve and businesses pay more taxes and employ more staff.
- In buying property you provide decent homes, and people can then feel secure enough to move on to more employment. Jobs are available in the businesses that are now confident in their sales.
- As more people move into work, they are less of a drain and pay more tax.
- This rebalances the books and pays off the national debt.
- As we invest in property we fund the growing building trade (generating more confidence and taxes) and we start to regenerate the whole of the UK housing market – again taking the burden of property maintenance from the local authorities and into the hands of local investors.

A win-win all round. The only challenge is educating people to the possibility.

And then, of course, there is the thorny issue of lending. I firmly believe that it is possible to release £150,000-£200,000 from a personal residence and buy properties that can create up to £2,000 income a month, I have clients who are doing that with me.

Investing in property that generates 10-15 per cent return on your money means you are investing for cashflow rather than capital gain. I have heard of people buying property in central London and having to subsidise the mortgage – that is madness... gambling and dangerous.

I am talking about providing decent housing for individuals and families that pay a fair rent in return for a home. If the property never changed in value over the next 10 years, it would not matter because you would have made a monthly income from the rent.

Go to www.PropertyForTheNextGeneration.com or www.VickiWusche.com to find out more.

REVENUE AND CUSTOMS

Small businesses record-checks 'presume guilt and stifle growth'

DSH Chartered Accountants and Business Advisors has hit out at Revenue and Customs plans to relaunch a records-check campaign, saying the move will add extra red tape to the burden placed on SMEs.

The Maidstone firm said the statutory record-checks loaded SMEs with more bureaucracy and would stifle growth.

HMRC first piloted the assessment scheme in April 2011 after saying checks were necessary to ensure that more firms were in a position to complete their tax returns correctly.

Up until February 2012, 3,431 checks had been carried out and. HMRC found more than a third of businesses had an issue with record-keeping and 10 per cent of this group – more than 120 businesses – had issues serious enough to warrant a follow-up visit.



SPEAKING UP: Roy Coates

The process was placed under review following complaints from the Federation of Small Businesses and other trade and professional bodies, which argued that the campaign added an extra barrier between small businesses and growth. However it was relaunched on Thursday, November 1, this year with very little publicity.

Roy Coates, business partner at DSH, said: "We feel the Business Record Checks add an unnecessary burden to small businesses by presuming they are guilty until proven innocent. This inevitably creates a level of distrust between HMRC and SMEs, which will be counter-productive in the long term."

EMPLOYMENT LAW

Specialist advice on providing a fair and equal workplace is well received

A TALK on employment law and how changes in legislation will impact on businesses in the coming year has been held at Folkestone's Basepoint centre.

Representatives from east Kent companies heard how the updated Equality Act 2010 will attempt to strengthen businesses as well as protect employees.

Guest speaker at the event was human resources specialist Veronica Fox from HR+ Limited.

She said new legislative framework protected the rights of individuals, provided advanced equality and opportunities for employees and promoted a fair and equal workplace.



EXPERT ADVICE: From left: Veronica Fox from HR+ Limited and Basepoint's Lorraine May

Lorraine May, centre manager, said: "Many SMEs will be looking forward to the new year but will also be thinking of ways they can improve the performance and profitability of their business in 2013.

"Veronica gave an interesting talk on employment law and it was something that resonated with the attendees as everyone knows you have to inspire confidence in your staff to succeed."

Basepoint provides support and premises for SMEs in east Kent; it also organises networking and advice sessions.

Training, courses and careers

Film crew follow Chinese students on arts course

A FILM crew from China has been in Medway learning how Kent trains students for careers in the arts.

The crew traced the steps of a group of students, also from China, on a week-long visit to the University for the Creative Arts.

Art China is the country's only government-funded arts website.

It filmed the group of 15 teenagers from Beijing's China Central Academy of Fine Arts as they travelled to UCA Rochester.

The Chinese students were embedded into a pre-degree course with current foundation students where they all worked together to create a special exhibition at UCA Rochester's Zandra Rhodes Gallery last month.

Gary Clough, course leader in international pathway programmes at UCA, said: "The trip has been a huge success and I know that both the Chinese and British students have got a lot out of the week.

"It can be really tough to put into words what life is like in the UK and how studying is different but the film crew will be able to bring it to life and show first-hand what UCA and the UK are really like, which is really exciting.

"UCA is a world-class creative arts university and we want to encourage more students from around the globe to study here because they bring so much to our students and our creative communities, so we're really pleased that the film crew will be promoting UCA in China."

Trust builds bridges with duo in pursuit of engineering future

ONE of the UK's oldest charities is supporting a pair of highly promising students to realise their dreams of becoming engineers.

The Rochester Bridge Trust said it was impressed by the pair, and wants to see them succeed at the highest level.

First created in medieval times, the trust has historically maintained the bridge across the Medway which has stood, in one form or another, since Roman times.

Founded in 1399, its core role is to provide and maintain a Rochester crossing of the River Medway, in perpetuity, at no cost to the public by carefully using its 14th and 15th century endowments.

Today, the trust owns and maintains the two A2 bridges and the service bridge at Rochester.

In addition, it contributes to the cost of other crossings, at Tonbridge, Yalding, East Peckham, Wateringbury and Maidstone, and played a leading role in the construction of the Medway Tunnel. It also makes occasional educational grants and donations to repair churches and other capital projects.

Now, it is working with Reece McAllister, of Chatham Grammar School for Boys, and Helen Phillips, of Bromley High School, during their final two years at school.

It includes the chance to meet leading engineers and discuss intricate details about the profession.

They will also be guided on university courses and higher apprenticeships.

Reece and Helen were awarded Bridge Wardens' Scholarships through the Arkwright Scholarships Trust following a rigorous series of assessments including a two-hour aptitude test and a university-based interview.

They are among more than 300 A-level and sixth-form students from across the UK to be awarded Arkwright Scholarships this year.

Sue Threader, a civil engineer and bridge clerk for the trust, said: "We are very committed to supporting the education and development of the engineers of the future and the Arkwright Scholarship Trust enables us to do this.

"Engineering offers many exciting and rewarding careers across a range of sectors. There is a national shortage of engineers and we need talented young people, such as Reece and Helen, to come into the field.

"We need good engineers to build and maintain our infrastructure and to grow our economy in a highly competitive global marketplace."

Its Growing Scientist project works with eight Maidstone secondary schools with a two-year programme of science, technology and engineering events and activities aiming to engage 1,000 young people each year.



SELECTED: Duo get support from bridge trust

What is your business doing to help Keep Kent Working? Do you send employees on training courses to aid their personal development or run apprenticeship schemes? If you have a good news story email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk or call us on 01303 817000.

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Biochemistry project inspires next generation of scientists

BIOCHEMISTRY is not generally the first thing on students' minds as they consider their careers, but a team of scientists in Canterbury hope to change that.

They worked with pupils at the Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys to encourage interest in the sciences.

The bioscientists from the University of Kent are working as part of a national Wellcome Trust-backed initiative.

Together they examined the human myelin basic protein, which is a major constituent of the myelin sheath, the insulating layer surrounding nerve cells in the central nervous system.

It is the latest step in the MBP2 project which started out as a pilot four years ago.

Students taking part in the scheme presented their work at the inaugural Authentic Biology Research Symposium this month.

Professor Mick Tuite, of the university's school of biosciences, said: "We have provided the impetus, research infrastructure and knowledge to develop this powerful and effective model for providing school students with an authentic research experience."

Leading the scheme at the school, Dr Dave Colthurst, said: "We aim to inspire students by giving them opportunities to work alongside scientists and take part in original, innovative research. When we started the project, we had 50 students taking part; this year we have over 170, demonstrating how popular it is among students. Four years in and we can already see the positive effects this is having."

Designs on winning contest



CONTEST: Schools can enter

STUDENTS from schools across the county are being encouraged to enter a competition to show off their graphic design skills.

The lucrative market is always on the lookout for new talent to take the industry by storm.

So Advanced Resource Managers decided to persuade schools in Kent to add names of 11 to 16 year olds to their entry list.

The winner of Designing Tomorrow has the chance to see their work in an international marketing campaign.

Simon Withers, ARM's marketing manager, said: "This is a great competition to showcase the up and coming talent hidden in Kent schools."

The contest is devised with the design and technology, ICT and business studies curricula in mind. The winners will get a work placement at ARM.

Teachers can register their school until January 2013 at the website www.arm.co.uk/designingtomorrow for an information pack.

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First GEAR MOTORING NEWS

- Ford ready to release second Kuga on world
- Fiat 500 mini people-carrier has Dr Dre beats
- Volkswagen rocks up with new Fender Beetle



Mazda blurs petrol/diesel argument with third-generation 6

Driving

carsforkent.co.uk

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk



DACIA SANDERO

Price (Sandero): £5,995
Driving appeal: Not yet driven
Image: ★★
Space: ★★★★
Value: ★★★★★
Running costs: ★★★★★
Reliability: ★★★★
How green?: ★★★★
Best rival: Hyundai i10

Dacia's returning to our shores – and this time means business

BILLED as the brand that is 'shockingly affordable', Romania's Dacia returns to the UK in January.

Those with long memories may recall that Dacia didn't exactly cover itself with glory during the late 80s and early 90s. It offered a flimsy 4x4 called the Duster, but this should not be confused with its namesake, spearheading a range of models arriving early in 2013.

Since that troubled debut and swift departure, Dacia has been taken over and modernised by Renault to offer a budget option in a Renault group portfolio that also includes Nissan.

Demand for cars from this revitalised Dacia has been so strong in mainland Europe that it looked increasingly as though building stock to suit British right-hand-drive needs was well down the priority list.

But it's happening now and the prices will challenge the established order; the Duster SUV is priced from just £8,995 and the Sandero supermini from £5,995. What's more, these can be acquired on eye-catching Personal Contract Purchase (PCP) deals that mean the Sandero, for instance, costs just £69 a month to run for three years after a deposit of £1,845.

Dacia says that makes the Sandero Britain's most affordable new car, costing little more than some gym-membership packages or satellite TV subscriptions.

And while the Dacia warranty is the industry's normal three-year/60,000 miles rather than five- and even seven-year tickets from some, five-year/60,000 miles and seven-year/100,000 miles upgrades are available for £395 and £850 respectively.

Will you need it? Well, peace of mind is always worth having, but by the very nature of their no-frills engineering and avoidance of fancy add-ons, there would appear to be little that can go wrong on these budget cars.

The point is born out by Dacia being voted 'Europe's most reliable car brand' in a survey of 30,000 car-owners in five western European countries last year.

And the Duster has already earned a significant plaudit, 'Bargain of the Year' in the 2012 Top Gear magazine awards, based on taking a 4x4 version to the Peruvian Andes and what is said to be one of the most dangerous roads in the world.

The magazine summed up the Duster's performance with "No car in the world offers more freedom for your quid than the Dacia Duster".

The Duster is available with front-wheel-drive and full 4x4, but there will also be a version of the Sandero supermini with some SUV styling.

Called the Sandero Stepway, this arrives soon after the Duster and Sandero itself and is priced from £7,995.

Riding slightly higher, it is easier to get in and out of, offers a better view out and comes with the 'funky chunky' look, front and rear scuffplates, wheelarch extenders and roof-bars.





DON'T LIKE

... how lead-in prices mask very basic specs. Most Duster buyers, for instance, will surely upgrade to mid-range Ambience spec from £11,495.

NOT SURE

... UK buyers are convinced about budget cars, but cheap Chinese imports are on the horizon and our economy shows no sign of improvement.

REALLY LIKE

... Dacia's stripped-back approach to making cars. We have been seduced into paying more for cabin gadgetry that we really don't need.

MOTORING

Visit carsforkent.co.uk

Diesel decision made harder by Mazda

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk



MAZDA is the first manufacturer to really fudge the diesel-versus-petrol argument when choosing a typical company or Mondeo/D-segment car.

It will do that in January with the launch of its third-generation Mazda6, priced from £19,595.

The original car sparked a revival for the Japanese marque back in the early Noughties and, fittingly, the latest car now becomes the standard-bearer for new fuel, weight and emissions savings for Mazda's Skyactiv technology.

Unusually, there is just as much to get excited about on the petrol front as there is on diesel, the latter being the powertrain of choice for D-segment company-car-users over the past couple of decades.

The new 2.0-litre Skyactiv-G petrol unit with either 145PS (144bhp) or 165PS (163bhp) outputs is available in either sleek new '6' four-door saloon or stylish yet practical five-door Tourer sporting estate.

The145ps in saloon guise has CO_2 emissions of 129g/km (131g/km Tourer), putting it among the class-leaders in the upper-medium segment and incurring road tax of £100 and £120 a year respectively while returning 51.4 (Tourer 50.4) on the official combined fuel cycle.

By mixing competitive list price and low emissions, the 2.0-litre 145ps SE entry model also has the lowest monthly benefit-in-kind tax figure of all 36 new Mazda6 models.

A monthly company car benefit-in-kind tax cost of £52 for a basic-rate taxpayer or £104 for a higher-rate taxpayer means the bill is lower than its equivalent for the sector-leading BMW 3 Series – the BMW 320i EfficientDynamics has the lowest CO_2 emissions figure (124g/km) in the class but a higher on-the-road price (£25,730) means a tax burden of £64/£128.

Mazda says there are similar savings across the new 145PS petrol line-up of saloons and Tourers versus its BMW rival. And Mazda fleet sales chief Steve Tomlinson also makes the point that not everyone wants diesel.

He said: "Diesel models account for approximately 90 per cent of upper-medium-sector company-car sales because many drivers are clocking up high annual mileages.

"However, there is a section of the company-car-driving population that requires an upper-medium-sector car to meet work or lifestyle requirements but do not drive quite as many miles."

Mindful that it won't change attitudes overnight, despite increasing speculation petrol is fighting back, Mazda is offering a choice of diesel power, too: the 2.2-litre Skyactiv-D 150PS (149bhp) and 175PS (173bhp) priced from £22,340.

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Style with serious intent from Hyundai's fabulous load-lugger

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

THERE has been a trend towards style over function in modern-day estate cars.

Just check out the lexicon used to replace the humble term 'estate': we've now got tourers, sport tourers, sportswagons, tourings and even Audi's distinctive Avant.

So it's no surprise that Hyundai insists the estate spin-off from its i30 Ford Focus/VW Golf challenger should be known as the Tourer.

Where it differs from many rivals, though, is that, despite a fancy name and some style, it actually can mix it as a serious load-lugger; this car has one of the largest boot areas in its class and, with rear seats down, has the biggest overall load space.

Tie that in with typically competitive prices, all-round comfort and appeal, plus Hyundai's five-year/unlimited-mileage warranty and you have a package that should be irresistible.

Except that the Korean marque and sister brand Kia still suffer disinterest from badge snobs, although hard-nosed used car-buyers know a bargain when they see one and have caused Hyundai and Kia values to harden lately.

Our i30 Tourer test car was in flagship Premium trim with the highest-output 128PS (127bhp) diesel and all the eco trimmings of Hyundai's Blue Drive technology.

And if you are a badge snob, then the £23,095 list price might look expensive.

Take the trouble to examine and drive the i30 Tourer, though, and it is an education in how far Hyundai has come in just five years, since it launched the original and impressive i30 – first of its new-generation 'i' mainstream models.

It's obvious that cabin design, quality and functionality have been influenced by VW's Golf – as with the new Kia Ceed.

In Premium format, that also means leather seats, climate control, sharp-looking alloys and just about every other creature comfort.

HYUNDAI i30 PREMIUM CRDi 128 BLUE DRIVE TOURER: PRICE £23,095



Driving appeal:	★★★★
Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★
Reliability:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Road tax:	£30/year (zero year one)
Best rival:	VW Golf

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IN CRUISE CONTROL: Hyundai's i30 Tourer has come a long way since the original i30 was released five years ago and is now one of the top cars in the sector with the added bonus of a five-year/unlimited-mileage warranty

And comfort is what you feel riding in this car, with good legroom for all, supportive seats, decent ride quality and a nice touch to the controls, leather-trimmed gearknob and steering wheel – the steering has three different weight settings.

There is a little too much alloy-effect plastic finishing, though. It would be OK on the lesser versions but not on this top-of-range model, and I would argue that junior versions are a better buy, from £16,295 for the entry petrol, with the cheapest diesel from £17,995.

Back to the positives, however, and it's hard to imagine this car is a fuel-miser capable of 64.2mpg according to the official combined cycle.

The engine is smooth and responsive with a crisp six-speed gearshift, and you do find yourself pressing on more than you might expect.

And this underlines how close Hyundai has come to leading European opposition: the Ford Focus might still be dynamically better to drive at the extreme; the VW Golf might say more about you image-wise; and the Audi A3 will definitely say more about you, but can you get all that the i30 offers for the price?

And you get that warranty on top; it's a powerful argument in tough times and you can envisage a sole trader or small business noticing the i30 and jumping at it, knowing the car can be driven to starship mileages or sold after three years with some warranty intact.

The five-year guarantee is not given lightly. If its cars were not reliable enough to merit such back-up, then Hyundai's image and profitability would be wrecked, but even if the car does fail, it is nice to know that Hyundai will sort the problem – a confidence-booster that few rivals seem prepared to rival, match or exceed.

First GEAR
MOTORING NEWS



New Kuga is on prowl soon

EFFICIENCY is the SUV-sector buzzword as carmakers seek to bury the old 'gas-guzzler' image.

And Ford is saying the right things about its forthcoming second-generation Kuga (from £20,895) while stressing it will be as much fun to drive as before and gains more luggage space, rear seats that fold flat in one movement and a quieter cabin.



Beats bonus with the 500L

FIAT has unveiled pre-launch offers on its 500L mini-people-carrier, due in March.

Though it shares the same number as the Italian marque's popular hatchback, the 'L' has a different look and more family appeal.

Anyone who reserves one now gets a free Beats By Dr Dre sound-system and wheel upgrade worth £900 – Fiat 500L prices start at £14,990.



Fender rocks the VW Beetle

AND there's a new beat from VW, too – the Beetle Fender limited edition, created in conjunction with the famous guitar-manufacturer and priced from £23,015.

It comes in black only with a 2.0-litre140PS (139bhp) diesel engine plus six-speed manual or auto/manual DSG gearbox, rear spoiler, 18-inch 'Discus' alloys, Fender badge on each front wing and 400-watt Fender sound system.

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CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA//12/01842/VAR: Land corner of Essex Street and Forge Lane, Whitstable Variation of condition 18 of planning permission CA/12/00938/FUL relating to Level 4 of Code for Sustainable Homes. **Applicant: JDS Homes Ltd** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/12/02192/FUL: 66 High Street, Whitstable, CT5 1BB Change of use from shop (Use Class A1) to 'micro pub' (Use Class A4) including associated internal and external works. **Applicant: Mr M McWilliam** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/12/02193/FUL: 3 Wave Crest, Whitstable, CT5 1EH Proposed alterations including new and/or modified window/door openings and an external staircase at the rear. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Adams** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/02200/LB: Bridge Place Country Club, Brewery Lane, Bridge, CT4 5LF Relocation of the kitchen and ladies wcs. Restoration of the original stairwell and lower staircase flights; uncovering and exposing an original inglenook fireplace at lower ground floor level and removing modern intermediate floors. **Applicant: Mr P Malkin** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//12/02212/FUL: 2 Oaten Hill Place, Canterbury, CT1 3HJ Erection of smoking shelter. **Applicant: ABV Bars Ltd** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA//12/02217/FUL: 2 Oaten Hill Place, Canterbury, CT1 3HJ Single-storey rear extension to public house (Scheme as previously approved reference CA/07/01526/CAN). **Applicant: ABV Bars Ltd** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA//12/02218/LB: 2 Oaten Hill Place, Canterbury, CT1 3HJ Single-storey rear extension to public house (Scheme as previously approved reference CAL/07/00150). **Applicant: ABV Bars Ltd** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//12/02221/FUL: Junior King's School, Milner Lane, Sturry Retention of artificial grass pitch and multi-use games area on existing playing fields with associated flood lighting, car park and alterations to fencing. **Applicant: The Kings School** Reason: Conservation area.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to **development.management@canterbury.gov.uk** to arrive on or before **Monday 21 January 2013.**

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: **www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc**

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 28 December 2012

PLANNING

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Town and Country Planning Act
Notice of Applications

MA/12/1263/S - BLY COURT MANOR, CHAPEL LANE, STAPLEHURST, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 0AN - Proposed extension and reinstatement of timber framing with alterations to front elevation. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/12/1288/S - BLY COURT MANOR, CHAPEL LANE, STAPLEHURST, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 0AN - Listed Building Consent for proposed extension and reinstatement of timber framing with alterations to front elevation. **Reason: 3**

MA/12/1634/N - PEEN BARN, BRICK KILN LANE, EAST SUTTON, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 3DS - Conversion of storage barn into part domestic accommodation (granny flat) and garden store/workshop, garage and office/studio as shown on drawing numbers NP-02/ex/001 rev A, NP-02/ex/005, NP-02/Prop/002 rev B, NP-02/Prop/003 rev B, NP-02/Prop/004 rev A, received 5th September 2012. **Reason: 7**

MA/12/1748/N - OLDE ENGLAND COTTAGE, ASHFORD ROAD, HOLLINGBOURNE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1XL - Part retrospective and part proposed application for erection of boundary fencing. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/1830/N - FIRST FLOOR, 17, EARL STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1PL - An application for advertising consent for the installation of 1no fascia sign, 1no projecting sign, 1no entrance sign, 2no poster signs and 5no window graphics. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/12/1882/S - KEEPERS COTTAGE, PEENS LANE, BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 4BZ - Erection of a detached garage. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/2039/S - 2, CROW PLAIN COTTAGES, BENOVER ROAD, YALDING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME18 6AZ - Listed building consent for repairs to internal staircase. **Reason: 3**

MA/12/2075/S - PARNHAM HOUSE, NORTH STREET, HEADCORN, KENT, TN27 9NN - Change of use of building to gymnasium with parking including single storey extension, alterations to fenestration and associated works and installation of outside bike store/shelter. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/12/2111/N - HAZEL COTTAGE, 2, CHURCH LANE, BEARSTED, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 4EF - Single-storey rear extension. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/12/2112/N - HAZEL COTTAGE, 2, CHURCH LANE, BEARSTED, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 4EF - Listed Building Consent for removal of existing single-storey rear element and erection of a single-storey rear extension. **Reason: 3**

MA/12/2117/S - MOUNTAIN FARMHOUSE, MARDEN ROAD, MARDEN, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 9PZ - Listed building consent for the erection of two storey side extension. **Reason: 3**

MA/12/2134/S - FORSTAL FARM, STOCKETT LANE, COXHEATH, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 6HA - Change of use of land from agriculture (orchard and open grassland) to farm shop (A1), apple store (B8), and caravan and tent park with associated utility block (D2). **Reason: 6**

MA/12/2156/S - COCKLE WOOD, FIVE OAK LANE, STAPLEHURST, MAIDSTONE, KENT, TN12 0HT - Retrospective application for an access track and hardstanding in connection with the management of woodland and proposed development for 3 hen houses in connection with the keeping of poultry. **Reason: 6**

MA/12/2160/S - KNOWLE HILL FARM, KNOWLE HILL, ULCOMBE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1ES - Listed Building Consent for erection of a first floor extension and modification to roof, removal of existing storm porch and erection of a replacement of new design, and partial demolition of chimney to remove twist and rebuilding to increased height.**Reason: 3**

MA/12/2179/S - KENT FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE HQ, THE GODLANDS, STRAW MILL HILL, TOVIL, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 6XB - Conservation area consent for the demolition of 3 single storey buildings. **Reason: 4**

MA/12/2194/S - MAIDSTONE HOSPITAL, HERMITAGE LANE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME16 9QQ - Extension of car park. **Reason: 6**

MA/12/2207/S - SMITHFIELD HOUSE, WEST STREET, HUNTON, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0RY - Erection of a replacement dwelling. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/2218/N - HSBC, 1 - 5, WEEK STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1QW - Application for listed building consent for removal of basement arches and associated works and internal refurbishment. **Reason: 3**

MA/12/2239/S - WIERTON GRANGE, BACK LANE, BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 4JR - An application for listed building consent for internal alterations to layout. **Reason: 3**

MA/12/2250/S - LAND OFF, MARIGOLD WAY, MAIDSTONE, KENT - Application for listed building consent to demolish part of ragstone wall and installation of a security gate. **Reason: 3**

MA/12/2258/S - MOATENDEN PRIORY, MAIDSTONE ROAD, HEADCORN, ASHFORD, KENT, TN27 9PT - Erection of a single storey extension, alterations to fenestration including insertion of new windows, reinstatement of south gable to main roof and restoration of close-studding/plaster panelling to three side roofs. **Reason: 1**

Reasons for advertisement key:
1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
4 - Application is for Conservation Area Consent.
6 - Application is Major Development.
7 - Application affects a Public Right of Way.

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **13th January 2013,** quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 30th December 2012

Swale BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or it's setting.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 14 JANUARY 2013.

SW/12/1451 &
SW/12/1478:
Installation of roller shutter - 5 High Street, SITTINGBOURNE; **REASON 1**

SW/12/1460:
Single storey extension - Hinkley House, BADLESMERE; **REASON 1**

SW/12/1556:
Advertisement consent for two wall mounted advertisements - Methodist Church, High Street, SITTINGBOURNE; **REASON 1**

SW/12/1557:
Amendment to previously accepted applications: SW/11/0978 and SW/11/0978/NMA. The addition of velux roof windows to the rear portion of both east and west roof slopes (side elevations) - 1 Mount Field, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

SW/12/1571 &
SW/12/1572:
Single storey rear extension to form conservatory/hallway to incorporate existing garage into living space plus detached new garage - Harrow House, BADLESMERE; **REASON 2**

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
Head of Planning

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

12/03137/FUL Postern Park Oast Postern Lane, Capel
- Driveway and engineering works; detached 3-bay garage; swimming pool in rear garden; alterations to dwelling including revisions to existing fenestration at ground floor and 3no rooflights to southern roof elevation; Landscaping works. Retrospective change of use from agricultural land to residential curtilage (LB)

12/03451/FUL Holly Shaw Queens Road, Hawkhurst
- Demolition of existing bungalow and garage, closure of existing vehicular accesses and erection of seven dwellings (one detached house and a terrace of three houses and three apartments) with associated parking provision and the creation of new vehicular and pedestrian access to Queens Road (LB) (CA)

12/03455/HOUSE Little Manor High Street, Hawkhurst
- Minor internal alterations to dining room and kitchen in conjunction with proposed handmade bespoke joinery external doors and windows (LB)

12/03457/LBC Little Manor High Street, Hawkhurst
- Listed Building Consent - Minor internal alterations to dining room and kitchen in conjunction with proposed handmade bespoke joinery external doors and windows (LB)

12/03458/CAC Holly Shaw Queens Road, Hawkhurst
- Conservation Area Consent: Demolition of existing bungalow and garage (CA)

12/03288/HOUSE North House Down Avenue, Lamberhurst
- Two-storey side extension (CA)

12/03246/FUL 25 High Street Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks
- Change of use of the first floor from retail storage to 1 x 3 bed flat, including creation of door and window (LB) (CA)

12/03249/LBC 25 High Street Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks
- Listed Building Consent: Change of use of the first floor from retail storage to 1 x 3 bed flat, including creation of door and window (LB)

12/03426/HOUSE 6 Princes Street Royal Tunbridge Wells, Park
- Single-storey pitched roof rear extension (CA)

12/03429/LBC Lansdowne House 4 Calverley Park Gardens, Park
- Listed Building Consent - Replace broken slates on part of pitched roof with Spanish slates; Replace chipboard floor with solid floor in basement (LB)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

James Freeman
Head of Planning Services, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 29 December 2012

Folkestone

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y12/1042/SH - 30 Westbourne Gardens Folkestone Kent CT20 2HY - Change of use and conversion from one flat and nine bedsits, to three self contained flats, together with the installation of replacement UPVC windows.

Y12/1115/SH - 115A Pleydell Gardens Folkestone Kent CT20 2DN - Change of use and conversion from existing self-contained flat into two self-contained flats, together with replacement uPVC sliding sash windows.

Y12/1122/SH - Bitford Broad Street Monks Horton Ashford Kent - Erection of timber framed conservatory to rear to replace existing unauthorised uPVC framed conservatory above existing retained dwarf brick walls (Resubmission of Y12/0139/SH).

Y12/1123/SH - Bitford Broad Street Monks Horton Ashford Kent - Listed building consent for the erection of timber framed conservatory to rear to replace existing unauthorised uPVC framed conservatory above existing retained dwarf brick walls.

Y12/1090/SH+ - 12 Prospect Road Hythe Kent CT21 5NL - Works to trees situated within a conservation area comprising the reduction in height of a Bay (T1) by a maximum of 4 metres and re-shape; felling of a dying Cherry (T2) and the reduction in height of three Beech (T3, T4 & T5) by a maximum of 4 metres, together with the reduction of the lateral limbs by 1.5 metres.

Any representations should be made in writing to the Head of Planning, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or emailed to planning@shepway.gov.uk. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. It should be noted that any representations received will be made available for public inspection.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

- The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney

+ - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

Applications can be viewed and comments made online at http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/.

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

C Lewis, Head of Planning
Shepway District Council

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PREMISES/ GOODS LICENCES

PUBLIC NOTICE
Application for a new Premises Licence

We, Village Green Foods Ltd hereby give notice that I have made an application to the Ashford Borough Council, Licensing Section, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent TN23 1PL for grant of a premises licence to permit the following licensable activities; 1. The sale of alcohol by retail for consumption off the premises In respect of the premises situated at The Street, Bethersden, Kent TN26 3AD and to be known as Marchants of Bethersden.
The application can be viewed at the offices of Ashford Borough Council, Licensing Section, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent TN23 1PL during normal office hours (website address www.ashford.gov.uk)
Any person wishing to make representation concerning this application should do so in writing to the above local authority and within 28 consecutive days of the submission of the application, that is no later than 21st January 2013.
It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. Any person who makes a false statement is liable on summary conviction to a maximum fine of £5,000
Stephen Thomas LAW
8 Grassmere, Leybourne,
West Malling, Kent. ME19 5QP
Authorised Agents for and on behalf of the applicants.

LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

Shepway District Council
Dog Control Orders

Shepway District Council has made the following dog control orders which will come into force on 1 February 2013:

1 The Dogs on Leads Shepway District Order 2012.
2 The Dogs Exclusion Shepway District Order 2012.
3 The Fouling of Land by Dogs Shepway District Order 2012.
4 The Dogs on Leads by Direction Shepway District Order 2012.

Full details of the proposed orders can be obtained from the Council offices at the Civic Centre, Castle hill Avenue, Folkestone CT20 2QY or can be viewed online at www.shepway.gov.uk.

Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010
NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 11 OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

Proposed development at 40 High Street, Canterbury, CT1 2RY

I give notice that George Freeman MRICS employee of Workman LLP on behalf of Universities Superannuation Scheme Limited is applying to the Canterbury City Council for planning permission to insert a door at the entrance to the alleyway immediately south-east of the building.

Any owner* of the land or tenant** who wishes to make representations about this application should write to the Canterbury City Council at Military Road, Canterbury, CT1 1YW by 13th January 2013.

* "owner" means a person having a freehold interest or a leasehold interest the unexpired term of which is not less than 7 years, or, in the case of development consisting of the winning or winning or working of minerals, a person entitled to an interest in a mineral in the land (other than oil, gas, coal, gold or silver).

** "tenant" means a tenant of an agricultural holding any part of which is comprised in the land.

Signed
On behalf of
Date

Statement of owners' rights
The grant of planning permission does not affect owners' rights to retain or dispose of their property, unless there is some provision to the contrary in an agreement or in a lease.

Statement of agricultural tenants' rights
The grant of planning permission for non-agricultural development may affect agricultural tenants' security of tenure.

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HIGHWAYS

HIGHWAYS - ASHFORD AREA

COLDBLOW, WOODCHURCH
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of water mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Coldblow (Lane), Woodchurch, on or after 14 January 2013 for up to 8 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between Newhurst Farm and Coldblow Farm.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Shadoxhurst Road and the eastern end of Spot House Lane.

The alternative route is via Shadoxhurst Road, Spot House Lane, Place Lane, Lower Road, Front Road, B2067 Brook Street (Appledore Road), Kenardington Road, Warehorne Road, School Hill and Spot House Lane.

STATION ROAD (WATERY LANE), WESTWELL, ASHFORD
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of a bridge safety inspection, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Station Road (Watery Lane), Westwell, Ashford, on or after 17 January 2013, as shown below.

The planned closure times are from Thursday 17 January 2013 at 22:00 hrs until Friday 18 January at 06:00 hrs.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the brick arch railway bridge for the domestic railway.

The alternative route is via Station Road, A20 Maidstone Road, Sandyhurst Lane, Westwell Lane and Watery Lane.

HIGHWAYS - CANTERBURY AREA

HARBOUR STREET, WHITSTABLE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide a new gas supply, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Harbour Street, Whitstable, on or after 14 January 2013 for up to 1 week or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Albert Street and Woodlawn Street.

This closure will have the following effects on traffic in Whitstable

HARBOUR STREET

- There will be no access to westbound through traffic between the junctions with Cromwell Road and The High Street. Access will be maintained up to The Harbour.
- There will be no through access for westbound traffic beyond the western entrance to The Harbour
- The alternative route is via Cromwell Road, Oxford Street and High Street
- The One-way Traffic Order in respect of Harbour Street will be suspended between Albert Street and High Street, to allow two-way access to shops and car park

CROMWELL ROAD - will be closed to eastbound traffic at the junction with Oxford Street.

- There will be no access into Cromwell Road from Oxford Street
- The alternative through route is via Oxford Street, High Street, Sea Street and Cromwell Road

WOODLAWN STREET - There will be No Left Turn into Harbour Street.

SEA STREET, WHITSTABLE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because works to refurbish a public house, together with new service connections to a nearby property, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on B2205 Sea Street, Whitstable, on or after 20 January 2013, as described below.

This will have the following effects on traffic in Whitstable.

SEA STREET - will be closed at the junction with Red Lion Lane.

- There will be no access for through traffic between the junction with Red Lion Lane and where it joins Harbour Street
- The alternative route is via Harbour Street.
- The One-way Traffic Order in respect of Sea Street will be suspended from the point of closure to the junction with Harbour Street, for access only.
- There will be No Right Turn from Sea Street into the northern junction with Harbour Street.

HARBOUR STREET - will be closed to westbound traffic from the western entrance to The Harbour.

- There will be no access to westbound through traffic between the junctions with Cromwell Road and High Street. Access will be maintained up to The Harbour.
- The alternative route is via Cromwell Road, Oxford Street and High Street
- The One-way Traffic Order between the Woodlawn Street and High Street will be reversed, so that traffic flows eastbound from the High Street direction
- The bus stops will be moved to the north side of Harbour Street, with some parking will allowed on the south side

CROMWELL ROAD - will be closed to east bound traffic at the junction with Oxford Street.

- There will be no access into Cromwell Road from Oxford Street
- The alternative route is via Oxford Street, High Street, Harbour Street and Cromwell Road

HIGH STREET - Will be closed to southbound traffic at the junction with Terrys Lane

- Traffic will be routed via Harbour Street, Cromwell Road, Oxford Street and High Street

HORSEBRIDGE ROAD - The one-way order Traffic Order will be suspended to allow access from the junction with Red Lion Lane to the junction with Terrys Lane

RED LION LANE - There will be No Right Turn into Harbour Street.

VICTORIA STREET, ALBERT STREET & WOODLAWN STREET There will be No Left Turn into Harbour Street from each of these roads.

Once work is completed on the eastern side of the Public House, the road network will revert to normal, with the following exception.

RED LION LANE will then be closed at the junction with Sea Street / Horsebridge Road for up to 3 weeks.

There is no alternative route, and access remains from Harbour Street.

The start date for these works will depend on progress with the earlier phase.

HIGHWAYS - DARTFORD AREA

CANADA FARM ROAD, DARTFORD
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of detailed examination works of the railway bridge, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Canada Farm, Dartford, on or after 18th January 2013 for up to 1 night or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction with Main Road and Rabbits Road and there will be no access for through traffic between these junctions.

The alternative route is via: Green Street, Green Road, Gills Road, Homesdale Hill, Shrubbery Road and Rabbits Road.

HIGHWAYS - DOVER AREA

BOYES LANE, GOODNESTONE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to replace telegraph poles, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Boyes Lane, Goodnestone, on or after 16 January 2013 for up to 1 day, between 09:30 hrs and 15:30 hrs.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Saddlers Hill and Cave Lane.

The alternative route is via Cave Lane, Buckland Lane and Catsole Hill.

VARIOUS ROADS, SHEPHERDSWELL TO WHITFIELD
(TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

As part of Highways Agency works to renew streetlighting on the A2 Trunk Road, Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting traffic on various roads which join the A2 Trunk Road between Shepherdswell to Whitfield, on or after 14 January 2013, as shown below.

LYDDEN HILL - between 14-23 January 2013 inclusive, between 20:00 hrs and 06:00 hrs each night, there will be a temporary maximum speed limits of 40 mph and 10 mph, in conjunction with Convoy working, where traffic is escorted through roadworks, as follows

Southbound Carriageway - there will be a temporary mandatory speed limit of 10 mph, from the junction with the A2 for a distance of 100 metres, in conjunction with Convoy working

Northbound Carriageway - there will be a temporary mandatory speed limit of 10 mph for a distance of 140 metres towards the junction with the A2 Trunk Road, in conjunction with Convoy working

In advance of the 10 mph speed restriction, there will be a temporary mandatory speed limit of 40 mph for a distance of 165 metres towards the 10 mph speed limit

Service Road - the One-way road signposted 'U-Turn' opposite Husk depot entrance will be closed when signed; traffic will be diverted along the Lydden Hill southbound to the unmarked road slightly further on

GEDDINGE LANE, WOOTTON - between 22-30 January 2013 inclusive, between 20:00 hrs and 06:00 hrs each night, there will be a temporary maximum speed limits of 40 mph and 10 mph, as shown below

A temporary mandatory speed limit of 10 mph from the junction with the A2 for a distance of 120 metres, in conjunction with Convoy working, where traffic is escorted through roadworks

A temporary mandatory speed limit of 40 mph from the 10 mph speed restriction southwards for a distance of 285 metres

The speed limits apply in both directions on the affected sections of road, when signage is displayed

COXHILL ROAD, SHEPHERDSWELL - will be closed from 1-8 February 2013 inclusive, between 20:00 hrs and 06:00 hrs each night

The closure is from the junction with the coastbound carriageway of the A2 to near the entrance to Hope Wood Farm

The alternative route is via A2 Trunk Road to Honeywood Junction, A256 Whitfield Bypass, Barville Road, Wigmore Lane, Shepherdswell Road and Eythorne Road to Coxhill Road.

For non-HGV traffic, an alternative diversion is via the A2 to Coldred Hill junction, Church Road, Coldred Road, Sandwich Road, Wigmore Lane, Shepherdswell Road and Eythorne Road to Coxhill Road

SINGLEDGE LANE, WHITFIELD will be closed between 11-19 February 2013, at the junction with the coastbound carriageway of the A2 to the junction of the cul-de-sac section, with no access to or from the A2.

The alternative route is via the A2 to Whitfield Roundabout, Sandwich Road, Nursery Lane and Singledge Lane.

COLDRED HILL, LYDDEN & SHEPHERDSWELL - between 21 February and 1 March 2013, there will be a temporary mandatory speed limit of 40 mph in both directions for a distance of 50 metres from the respective junctions with the A2 Trunk Road.

All speed limits apply when the relevant signage is displayed in site.

HIGHWAYS - MAIDSTONE AREA

BELTRING LEVEL CROSSING, GRAVELLY WAYS, YALDING
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to inspect and re-rail the crossing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Beltring Level Crossing, Gravelly Ways, Yalding, on or after 5 January 2013 for up to 2 nights or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the level crossing.

The alternative route is via Lees Road, B2162 Hampstead Lane, B2015 Maidstone Road, A228 Boyle Way/Branbridges Road, Beltring Road.

CHATHAM ROAD, BOXLEY
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to replace damaged street lights and for general maintenance on existing columns, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Chatham Road, Boxley, on or after 18 January 2013 for up to 1 night between 20.00hrs and 05.00hrs until the works have been completed.

The Chatham Road northbound slip between The Running Horse roundabout and Cobtree Roundabout will be closed.

The alternative route is southbound traffic via A229 Royal Engineers roundabout and return and for M2 coastbound traffic via A229 Royal Engineers roundabout and return, Bluebell Hill, Lord Lees Roundabout, southbound Bluebell Hill, onto coastbound M20 slip.

HIGHWAYS - SEVENOAKS AREA

IVY HOUSE LANE, OTFORD, SEVENOAKS
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of detailed railway bridge examination works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Ivy House Lane, Otford, Sevenoaks, on or after 19th January 2013 for up to 1 night or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction with London Road and Pilgrims Way East. There will be no access for through traffic at this location.

The alternative route is via Pilgrims Way, London Road.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(VARIOUS ROADS, THE DISTRICT OF SEVENOAKS)

(20MPH, 30MPH, 40MPH, 50MPH SPEED LIMITS AND DERESTRICTED ROADS)

AMENDMENT NO. 2 CONSOLIDATION ORDER 2012

Notice is hereby given that the Kent county council has made an order under sections 81, 82, 83 and 84 of the road traffic regulation act 1984, the effect of which is to :-

1) implement a 40 mile per hour speed limit along Cowden Road from a point 100 metres south of its junction with furnace lane to a point 261 metres southwest of its junction with north street. 2) implement a 40 mile per hour speed limit on Butterwell Hill from a point 220 metres northeast of its junction with north street to its junction with Hartfield Road (b2026). 3)implement a 30 mile per hour speed limit on high street and Butterwell Hill from a point 261 metres southwest of its junction with north street to a point a point 220 metres northeast of its junction with north street. 4)implement a 30 mile per hour speed limit on north street and Spode Lane from a point 212 metres northwest of its junction with priory way to its junction with high street. 5) implement a 30 mile per hour speed limit on Chantlers Mead from its junction with North Street for its entire length. 6) implement a 30 mile per hour speed limit on priors way from its junction with North Street for its entire length. 7) implement a 30 mile per hour speed limit on church street from its junction with high street for its entire length.

A copy of the proposed order, which comes into operation on 31/12/2012, together with an explanatory statement and a map showing the lengths of roads concerned may be inspected during normal office hours at county hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ or at the offices of the Kent County Council Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD.

Anyone may, by application to the high court within 6 weeks of the date of publication of this notice, challenge the validity of the orders or of any provision contained in them on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the road traffic regulation act 1984, or any instrument made thereunder, or that there has been a failure to comply with any statutory requirement in relation to the orders..

John Burr, Director of KCC Highways and Transportation County hall, Maidstone, Kent, Me14 1xq

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(VARIOUS ROADS, THE DISTRICT OF SEVENOAKS)

(20MPH, 30MPH, 40MPH, 50MPH SPEED LIMITS AND DERESTRICTED ROADS)

AMENDMENT NO. 5 CONSOLIDATION ORDER 2012

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council has made an Order under Sections 81, 82, 83 and 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which is to :-

1) Implement a 30 mile per hour speed limit on High Street (A25), Seal, from its junction with School Lane eastwards for a distance of 380 metres. 2) Implement a 50 mile per hour speed limit on Maidstone Road (A25), Seal, from a point 380 metres east of its junction with School Lane to its junction with Sevenoaks Road.

A copy of the proposed Order, which comes into operation on 31/12/2012, together with an explanatory statement and a map showing the lengths of roads concerned may be inspected during normal office hours at County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ or at the offices of the Kent County Council Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD.

Anyone may, by application to the High Court within 6 weeks of the date of publication of this Notice, challenge the validity of the Orders or of any provision contained in them on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or any instrument made thereunder, or that there

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Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,
on 08458 247 800 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

has been a failure to comply with any statutory requirement in relation to the Orders..

John Burr, Director of KCC Highways and Transportation County hall, Maidstone, Kent, Me14 1xq

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(VARIOUS ROADS, THE DISTRICT OF SEVENOAKS)

(20MPH, 30MPH, 40MPH, 50MPH SPEED LIMITS AND DERESTRICTED ROADS)

AMENDMENT NO. 3 CONSOLIDATION ORDER 2012

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council has made an Order under Sections 81, 82, 83 and 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which is to :-

1) Implement a 30 mile per hour speed limit along Old Marsh Green Road from its northeast junction with Marsh Green Road (B2028) to a point 125 metres north of its southwest junction with Marsh Green Road (B2028). 2) Implement a 40 mile per hour speed limit on Marsh Green Road (B2028) from a point 295 metres southwest of its southwest junction with Old Marsh Green Road southwestwards for a distance of 355 metres. 3) Implement a 40 mile per hour limit on Marsh Green Road (B2028) from its junction with Mill Hill/Hartfield Road (B2026) to a point 50 metres northeast of its southwest junction with Old Marsh Green Road.

A copy of the proposed Order, which comes into operation on 31/12/2012, together with an explanatory statement and a map showing the lengths of roads concerned may be inspected during normal office hours at County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ or at the offices of the Kent County Council Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD.

Anyone may, by application to the High Court within 6 weeks of the date of publication of this Notice, challenge the validity of the Orders or of any provision contained in them on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or any instrument made thereunder, or that there has been a failure to comply with any statutory requirement in relation to the Orders.

John Burr, Director of KCC Highways and Transportation County hall, Maidstone, Kent, Me14 1xq

HIGHWAYS - SHEPWAY AREA

CASTLE HILL AVENUE, FOLKESTONE (PROHIBITION OF WAITING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting waiting on part of Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, on or after 14 January 2013 for up to 8 weeks or until the works have been completed.

Waiting will be prohibited at any time on the northbound carriageway of Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, between the junctions with Bouverie Road West and Shorncliffe Road, on all sections of road where there are no existing restrictions.

This applies when the relevant signage and no waiting cones are on site.

NORTH ELHAM HILL, ELHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow Openreach to have safe access to telegraph poles and overhead cables for essential works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on North Elham Hill, Elham, on or after 3 January 2013 for up to 3 days, between 09:30 hrs and 15:30 hrs.

The road will be closed between the junctions with the un-named road to Bunkers Hill and Green Lane.

The alternative route is via High Street, New Road, Vicarage Lane, Lickpot Hill and Standard Hill Top.

STADE STREET, HYTHE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Stade Street, Hythe, on or after 2 January 2013 for up to 6 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The western section of Stade Street will be closed from the junction with Portland Road to where it meets the remainder of Stade Street (outside numbers 18-20).

The alternative route is via Portland Road and Stade Street.

HIGHWAYS - SWALE AREA

LOWER HARTLIP ROAD, HARTLIP (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of a CCTV and geophysical survey on a borehole to evaluate its condition, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Lower Hartlip Road, Hartlip, on or after 16 January 2013 for up to 1 day between 09:00 hrs and 15:00 hrs.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of Holly House Farm.

The alternative route is via Yaugher Lane and Magpie Lane.

B2006 MILL WAY, SITTINGBOURNE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to plane and resurface the carriageway, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on B2006 Mill Way, Sittingbourne, on or after 17 January 2013 for up to 1 week as shown below.

Planned closures are on the nights of 17 and 18 January, 21 to 23 January 2013, between 20:00 hrs and 06:00 hrs each night.

The road will be closed between St Paul's Street and Milton Road, with no through access.

The alternative route is via B2006 St Paul's Street, Staplehurst Road, A2 Bobbing Interchange, Sheppey Way, A2 Key Street Roundabout, A2 Key Street, London Road, St Michael's Road (plus Dover Street and West Street in reverse), Crown Quay Lane and Eurolink Way.

HIGHWAYS - THANET AREA

MARSH FARM ROAD, MINSTER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of bridge repair works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Marsh Farm Road, Minster, on or after 14 January 2013 for up to 10 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at Marsh Farm Road Bridge.

There is no alternative route as Marsh Farm Road is a No Through Road. Every effort will be made to allow any essential access.

WARDOUR CLOSE, BROADSTAIRS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Wardour Close, Broadstairs, on or after 14 January 2013 for up to 4 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of numbers 22 to 31.

Access remains from either end of Wardour Close up to the point of closure. The alternative route for through traffic is via Prospect Road, Thanet Road, Albion Street, High Street and Belmont Road.

HIGHWAYS - TONBRIDGE AND MALLING AREA

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(VARIOUS ROADS, THE BOROUGH OF TONBRIDGE AND MALLING)

(20MPH, 30MPH, 40MPH, 50MPH SPEED LIMITS AND DERESTRICTED ROADS) AMENDMENT NO. 2 CONSOLIDATION ORDER 2012

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council has made an Order under Sections 81, 82, 83 and 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which is to :-

1) Implement a 50 mile per hour speed limit on Sevenoaks Road (A25), Ightham, from its junction with Maidstone Road to its junction with the Ightham By-Pass. 2) Implement a 50 mile per hour speed limit on the Ightham By-Pass (A25), Ightham, from its junction with Sevenoaks Road to a point 170 metres northeast of its junction with Oldbury Lane.

A copy of the proposed Order, which comes into operation on 31/12/2012, together with an explanatory statement and a map showing the lengths of roads concerned may be inspected during normal office hours at County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ or at the offices of the Kent County Council Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD.

Anyone may, by application to the High Court within 6 weeks of the date of publication of this Notice, challenge the validity of the Orders or of any provision contained in them on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or any instrument made thereunder, or that there has been a failure to comply with any statutory requirement in relation to the Orders.

John Burr, Director of KCC Highways and Transportation
County hall, Maidstone, Kent, Me14 1xq

HIGHWAYS - TUNBRIDGE WELLS AREA

GIBBET LANE, HORSMONDEN (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of highway improvement works for a new development, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Gibbet Lane, Horsmonden, on or after 2 January 2013 for up to 6 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from B2162 Maidstone Road to outside number 2.

The alternative route is via B2162 Maidstone Road, Brenchley Road, Furnace Lane, Gibbet Lane.

STONE STREET, CRANBROOK (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because a new gas supply is to be installed, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Stone Street, Cranbrook, on or after 3 January 2013 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The alternative route is via High Street, Angley Road, Waterloo Road.

John Burr
Director of Highways & Transportation
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ **Dated 30th December 2012**

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council



Sports Review of the Year 2012

JANUARY


Jimmy Adams

FORMER Gills boss Tony Pulis returns to Preistfield with Stoke City in the FA Cup third round, leaving with a 3-1 win.

Pulis' side survived an early scare as Danny Kedwell gave the Gills the lead. However their cup dreams were ended for another year as Jonathan Walters, Cameron Jerome, and Rob Huth silenced a sold out Priestfield Stadium.

It's a quiet transfer window for the Gills as loanee Jo Kuffour makes his move permanent while Luke Rooney signs for rivals Swindon.

West Indian legend **Jimmy Adams** is named as Kent County Cricket Club's new head coach, replacing Paul Farbrace, who resigned at the end of the previous season.

Margate striker Kwesi Appiah seals a move to Championship side Crystal Palace after firing more than 30 goals in the first half of the season at Hartsdown Park.

Talented sportswoman Susie Rowe is forced to make the tough choice between pursuing either hockey or cricket.

The 25-year-old ended her top flight career with Canterbury ladies to carry on playing for Kent and England women's cricket team.

FEBRUARY


Jamie Staff

OLYMPIC gold medal cyclist **Jamie Staff** returned to his home county with two of his USA cycling squad who he coaches.

The 39-year-old from Ashford cycled around the Julie Rose Stadium in the town while visiting the country for a test event for the Olympics.

Gillingham produce one of the comebacks of the season under the floodlights at Priestfield when Hereford come to town.

Andy Hessenthaler's side were 2-1 down at half time, and quickly equalised after the break. The Bulls netted twice more with 20 minutes to go making the score 4-2 to the visitors. Three goals in the last ten minutes secured an unlikely win. Gills keeper Paulo Gazzaniga even saved a penalty before Gavin Tomlin netted the winner.

Kent's Azhar Mahmood is bought for $200,000 at auction, twice his base price, by the Kings XI Punjab for the Indian Premier League. It means the all-rounder misses the start of the cricket season with the county.

Kent's women prove their worth as England thrash New Zealand in their Twenty20 series. Lydia Greenway, Tamsin Beaumont, Laura Marsh and Charlotte Edwards star.

MARCH

KENT wicketkeeper Geraint Jones makes a surprise return to international action for Papua New Guinea.

The 35-year-old was called up to their squad for qualifying matches for the Twenty20 World Cup, which they failed to make after losses to Holland and Bermuda.

Jimmy Adams side also begin their pre-season preparations with a trip to Antigua with a host of new signings, including on loan batsman Scott Newman, and permanent signings batter Michael Powell, and bowlers Charlie Shreck, and Mark Davies.

Whistable Cricket Club is crowned indoor 6-a-side national cricket champions.They beat Blaydon by seven wickets at Lord's to seal the title.

Interest in the Olympics continues to grow as Canterbury ladies hockey star **Natalie Seymour** talks about her chances of selection for the Games.



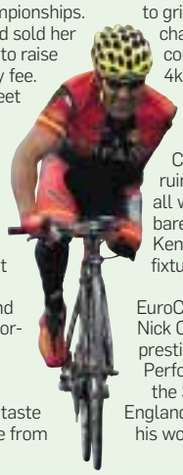
The British Touring Car Championship season kicks off at Brands Hatch at the end of the month.

Wrotham-based Motorbase performance changes it's name to Redstone Racing as part of a sponsorship deal.

JUNE

MAIDSTONE rally driver Louise Cook was in desperate need of funds to enter the New Zealand stage of the Production World Rally Championships.

The 21-year-old sold her trophies on eBay to raise cash for the entry fee. If she failed to meet the deadline she would have incurred crippling financial penalties. Fortunately she just about made it through after spending night and day raising sponsorship from Down Under and in England.



Kent is given a taste of what's to come from the **Paralympics** with a test day at Brands Hatch for the road cycling event.

Hundreds of competitors from around the world got to grips with the challenging 8km course, which was 4km of the famous circuit, and 4km on local roads.

Tunbridge Wells Cricket Festival is ruined by a downpour all week which sees barely any play for Kent in their three fixtures at The Nevill.

Head coach of EuroCanterbury ladies, Nick Clark, picks up the prestigious accolade of Performance Coach of the Season from the England Hockey Board for his work with the club.

JULY


Adam Gemili

JULY was one of he busier months of the year, and that wasn't just because of the Olympics.

'Mad Dog' Martin Allen was appointed Andy Hessenthaler's replacement at Gillingham, ending a two month search by chairman Paul Scally.

After 24 years of exile from their home town, Ryman One South side Maidstone United opened their new £2.6m Gallagher Stadium, complete with its artificial 3G pitch. They lost the opener 5-0 to Gus Poyet's Brighton.

Adam Gemili becomes Junior World 100m Champion after running a blistering 10.05s race in Barcelona. The 18-year-old from Dartford set a new championship record, and a new British Junior record beating the previous best of 10.06s set by Dwain Chambers 15 years ago.

Olympians begin to arrive in preparation for the Games. Canterbury Christ Church was home to Puerto Rico, and star 400m hurdler Javier Culson. Meanwhile Australia's athletics team made themselves at home at Tonbridge School.

Kent youngsters Adam Ball, and Daniel Bell-Drummond are named in England under-19's World Cup Squad – Ball as captain.

SEPTEMBER


Alex Zanardi

KENT bowler Simon Cook retires from cricket.

The 35-year-old who played a major part in the county's one day success in 2007 and 2008 took the decision to concentrate on his coaching career.

The former Middlesex paceman passed his level 4 coaching award using young bowlers Matt Coles and Adam Ball as the subjects of his coursework for the last two and a half years.

Canterbury cyclist Kristian House wins the King of the Mountains jersey in the Tour of Britain.

The 33-year-old clinched the title after finishing 19 points clear of Pablo Urtasun in the eight-day tour, which he led on the hills for all but one stage.

Former Maidstone United, and Ashford Town director, Paul Bowden-Brown takes on a new football challenge at Ryman One North side Thamesmead Town.

He said he hoped to develop new income streams for the club who are in the process of building a new stadium at their home, Bayliss Avenue.

Alex Zanardi captures the hearts of the nation at Brands Hatch by winning a gold medal in the Paralympics. The 46-year-old Italian racing driver had both of his legs amputated following a crash in 2001. He subsequently took to handcycling and won two golds in the road race and road time trial, and a silver in the team relay.

Kent's season ends in disappointment as their narrow chances of promotion to the LV=County Championship Division One finishes with a seven-wicket loss at Glamorgan. They needed to beat the bottom side to have any chance of promotion. They finished third and Derbyshire and Yorkshire were promoted.

OCTOBER


Shane Byrne

SHANE Byrne clinched his third British Superbike Championship title in the final race of the season at Brands Hatch.

The 35-year-old Sheppey rider won the final three races of the series to clinch the BSB crown, which looked unlikely the month before when he suffered shoulder ligament damage.

However, he recovered in time for the first Showdown ride in Assen, Holland. He then jumped to the top of the standings at Silverstone in the penultimate round giving him a nine point lead before the Brands Hatch.

Bromley racer Gary Paffett claims an unwanted fourth runners-up title in the German touring car series the DTM. The 31-year-old had led the series for much of the season but ended up losing by four points after the final race.

Sittingbourne rallycross driver Liam Doran finishes second overall in the European RallyCross Championships after a challenging final round.

Professional boxing comes to Kent with Olympic gold medalist James DeGale successfully defending his European middleweight title against Hadillah Mohoumadi at Bluewater's Glow complex. It was also a good night for Hoo fighter Adam Dingsdale who had his first professional fight in the county on the undercard of the event.

Ashford World Superbike rider Leon Camier signs a new deal to stay with FIXI Crescent Suzuki for the 2013 season. He finished 14th overall in his second season in the series, the first half of which was blighted by technical problems.

Tonbridge Angels striker Mikel Suarez spends a week in intensive care following a collision with a team mate.

APRIL


Medway Village

HERNE Bay suffered the crushing disappointment of missing out on a trip to Wembley in the FA Vase Final.

Having drawn 2-2 at Winch's Field in the first leg of the semi-final against West Auckland, the Kent League side lost the second leg 2-1. They would have been only the second Kent team in history to get to the final after Deal Town claimed the title in 2000.

Gillingham unveil plans for a new home at Mill Hill with a new stadium to be built at the **Medway Village** complex, which also includes a shopping superstore and entertainmen facilities.

Ryman One South side Hythe Town upset the odds to win the Kent Senior Cup for the first time in their history. Scott Porter's side beat Ebbsfleet United and Dover on the way to the final where they beat Dartford 1-0.

Tonbridge Angels defender Scott Gooding retires from football after a persistant knee injury and becomes a gymnastics coach.

Kent get their season off to a steady start with three draws against against Gloucestershire, and twice against Yorkshire, while they beat Northamptonshire by 120 runs in the LV=CC.

Matt Coles takes the plaudits in the opener by hitting his maiden century for the county in the draw against Yorkshire at Headingley.

MAY


London Broncos

GILLINGHAM legend Andy Hessenthaler steps down as manager after two years of failing to make the play-offs. It starts a long search for his replacement which would go on until the start of July.

London Broncos bring the Super League to Gillingham's Priestfield Stadium. The club, who normally play their home games at the Stoop in south west London, took two league games 'on the road'. They lost 14-10 to Hull FC infront of a crowd of nearly 4,000, which is almost double their normal home gate.

Former Tonbridge, Gravesend & Northfleet, Ashford Town and Maidstone player Roy Hodgson is named as the new England manager.

Dartford beat Welling United in the Blue Square South play-off final to clinch promotion. Lee Noble's fourth minute strike settled the tie at a sold out Princes Park.

Gravesend's multi-million Cyclopark facility opens to the public. The venue features kilometres of racing track and mountain biking trails, a BMX track and skate park among other facilities.

Kent star Charlotte Edwards broke new ground to become the first woman to join the MCC world cricket committee. In the same month, the England captain was also awarded the prize of England Women's Cricketer of the Year.

It was a year to remember as 2012 delivered a truly remarkable sports calendar. From the Olympics (right) to a reinvigorated Gills team who spent much of the new season on top of the table, there was much to discuss. Rob Key quit as Kent skipper and Shane Byrne scooped another crown. **GREG MILES** takes a look back.

AUGUST

MARTIN Allen celebrates his first competitive game in charge of Gillingham with a win over Bristol City in the first round of the Capital One Cup, which is also on his birthday.

New boy **Ben Strevens** and Danny Kedwell scored the goals in a 2-1 win at Ashton Gate to get the season off to a promising start. Gillingham then went on to win eight straight games in League Two.

Allen also added winger Myles Weston, defender Adam Barrett, and Deon Burton to his new side at the Priestfield Stadium, which also featured keeper Stuart Nelson who signed a month earlier.

August also sees Kent's hopes of progressing in the CB40 dashed by a crushing nine wicket loss at home to Sussex.

They could still have gone through to the semi-finals as best losers, but only if Warwickshire failed to beat Yorkshire. They won. Kent were out.

Medway Park in Gillingham hosts a wheelchair rugby league test match between France and England. More than 600 people turned out to watch the game, which is essentially the same as the running version, but played in wheelchairs, as current World Cup holders England lose.



Canterbury hockey club's Polo Farm hosts the Hockey Masters World Cup with dozens of countries from around the world calling the historic city their home for the week.

NOVEMBER

KENT cricket club announces it may have to make redundancies following a tough financial year.

Weather ruined play on a number of occasions leaving the county without big gate receipts from Tunbridge Wells cricket week. They also missed out on money-spinning games in the T20 as a promising start to the season tailed off.

There was also big news on the pitch as Rob Key stood down as captain after seven years in charge. He was replaced by spinner **James Tredwell.**

Fan group the Fleet Trust raise concerns about the future of Ebbsfleet United football club under the ownership of the MyFootball-Club.co.uk website members.



Justin Luchford becomes the first Kent football manager to get the chop of the season. Five straight defeats at Whitstable Town is enough for chairman Gary Johnson to send him on his way.

Edenbridge's 2011 British Superbike Champion, and Swan Yamaha rider, Tommy Hill announces he will take a break from the sport in 2013 after failing to defend his crown.

Margate FC are dealt a financial blow with the news that two of the clubs main sponsors have gone bust. It left the Hartsdown Park outfit without a quarter of their budget for the season.

It's announced Herne Bay United Roller Hockey club will host a money-spinning veterans tournament in the summer of 2013.

DECEMBER


Folkestone Racecourse

FOLKESTONE Racecourse closes its doors for possibly the last time.

Problems with a planned development of 800 homes, which would have secured its financial future, didn't go ahead. It forced the course's owners Arena Racing to close it for the 2013 season.

Sandwich's Prince's Golf Club is announced as one of the venues on the EuroPro Tour for 2013. Hundreds of young pros will take part in a tournament lasting several days in October, with the winner of the series clinching a place on the Challenge Tour.

Kent League side Canterbury City unveil plans for a new 1,000 seater stadium and facilities to be built in the city at Ridlands Farm. They currently ground share with Ryman One South side Herne Bay.

Comedian Bob Bevan MBE is named as Kent's new president for the 2013 season.

The 67-year-old, who is a well-known after-dinner speaker, author and television-radio personality, has frequently appeared on Channel 4's Countdown, with Sir Terry Wogan on Auntie's Bloomers and also presented BBC Radio 5's Six-O-Six show.

It's announced speedway will return to the county at Sittingbourne's Central Park. The team will be known as Kent and will compete in the National League starting in May.



MAGIC: The London Olympics proves a highlight

County's stars provide lasting memories from summer Games

WITHOUT doubt, the highlight of the sporting year happened in east London, and Kent's elite sports stars more than played their part.

Ashford's Tom Ransley picked up a bronze medal at Eton Dorney in the men's eight rowing.

Canterbury's William Fox-Pitt claimed silver in the team eventing in the equestrian.

Dartford sprinter Adam Gemili just missed out on a place in the 100m finals. He finished third in his heat alongside eventual silver medalist Yohan Blake, and Tyson Gay.

He also ran the final leg in the 4x100m relay which GB were disqualified from because of his illegal baton handover.

Hythe hurdler Jack Green bowed out in the semi-finals of the 400m hurdles after hitting a hurdle. He also ran well in the 4x400m as GB finished fourth in the final.

New Romney's Lisa Dobriskey cruised through her heats in the 1,500m but couldn't deliver the goods in the final as she finished 10th.

Chatham trampoline gymnast Kat Driscoll just missed out on a place in the finals by a fraction of a point. She finished 9th overall.

Tunbridge Wells windsufer Bryony Shaw couldn't add to her Beijing gold medal in Weymouth as she had to settle for fifth place.

West Malling hockey star Ashley Jackson took Team GB to the semi-finals where they lost 9-2 to Holland. They couldn't recover for the bronze medal match as they lost 3-1 to Australia.

The Paralympics provided an equal share of medal success as Tunbridge Wells table tennis ace Will Bayley won silver in the singles, while clinching bronze in the team event with Sheppey team mate Ross Wilson.

In judo, Ben Quilter, who trains at Dartford, claimed a bronze medal while nursing a serious injury which he has since had surgery for.

Sittingbounrne's Steve Brown had a busy build up to the Games as the nation tuned in to watch wheelchair rugby. The 31-year-old captained GB to fifth place in the Games after a play-off win against Sweden.

Canterbury's Nathan Milgate just missed out on qualification for the finals of his two events finishing 10th and 11th at the Royal Artillery Barracks.

Claire Harvey, from Ashford, captained the women's sitting volleyball team during the Games. They finished last without winning a match.

Beckenham's Richard Dobell and Netra Rana from Folkestone were part of the men's team that lost in the quarer finals to Iran.

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